

EVIDENCE

PRESENTED BY THE

NATIONAL FRENCH DRAFT HORSE ASSOCIATION.

BEFORE THE

Illinois State Board of Agriculture

AT SPRINGFIELD, ILL., JAN. 4, 1888,

ON THE

Breed and Breeding

OF THE

Draft Horses of France.

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INTRODUCTION.

This pamphlet contains the evidence produced by advocates of the French Draft Horse, at Springfield, Illinois, on January 4th, before the Illinois State Agricultural Board, at which time they had under discussion the report of a special committee appointed by said board to obtain information from France touching upon the question of whether or not the Percheron and the French Draft Horses are the same breed, or different and distinct ones. The Illinois State Board had, for some years past, given the Percheron men a separate ring, and it was not expected by the representatives of the French Draft Horse Association that they would accomplish more than to defeat the report of the committee, which in their opinion did not contain the facts in the case, and they not only did this but the board struck said report from the files, and eliminated it from the minutes and passed in its stead the following resolutions:

"RESOLVED, That the present classifications for French Draft Horses be continued under the names as they at present stand for 1887.

"RESOLVED, That in this action the State Board of Agriculture do not attempt or pretend to settle any difference of opinion between the two great rival societies in this country, or the interests they represent, as to any race, family, breed or pedigrees, and do not thereby intend to convey the impression that horses from one part of France are purer in blood or superior in quality to horses from any other part of France.

"RESOLVED, Further that these two classifications are in this state only, in deference to the large and extensive interests involved, and with the view of affording an opportunity to each association, to press with equal fairness, all claims as to individual merits and breeding qualities of the animals they represent."

These resolutions were adopted on a rising vote by all of the members of the Board present except three, two of these

latter being members of the State Senate. These three withheld their assent to the resolutions on the ground that they could not conscientiously use the money of the State to pay two premiums for what they considered were identically the same animals.

Following the adoption of these resolutions, a motion was made and carried to eliminate from the minutes, the report of the committee which had been filed for information. Thus, the information which took six months and a trip across the water to procure at the home of the French Draft Horse, failed to satisfy the Board that there is any difference in the blood or breeding of the draft horses of that country.

Since the throwing out of this report some of the Percheron organs are seeking to make it appear that they gained a great victory, and we frequently see in print extracts from this eliminated report, so we print this pamphlet in order that the people may not only know the correct decision of the Illinois Board, but the position of the French Draft importers upon this question as well.

NOTE.—Since the above was written the question of making a separate ring for the so-called Percheron Horse was discussed before the Iowa State Agricultural Board, at Des Moines, on January 11, 1888, and by it voted down unanimously. The different states are awaking to the fact that the draft horses of France are of one blood, and while Illinois may have an interest that she must "in deference to," make two rings, the other states will hardly be expected to follow her example and spend the people's money for two premiums on horses that even the Illinois Board found no difference between.

If the question of separate classification had come before the Illinois State Board, we don't doubt but that the result would have been the same as in Iowa, but we preferred the elimination of the report of the committee from their records, and the passage of this set of resolutions, to the making of one class, as we now have in those resolutions our arguments endorsed and two rings to show our French Draft Horses in if we wish to show them.

For copies of this report apply to W. M. Springer, Oska-loosa, Iowa; John Virgin, Fairbury, Illinois, or C. E. Stubbs, Fairfield, Iowa, Secretary National French Draft Horse Association.

THE French Draft Horse Question

SPEECH BY MR. C. E. STUBBS, OF FAIRFIELD, IOWA, SECRETARY.
NATIONAL FRENCH DRAFT HORSE ASSOCIATION, ON THE
FRENCH DRAFT HORSE QUESTION, BEFORE THE ILLINOIS
STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4,
1888.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN OF THE STATE BOARD OF
AGRICULTURE:

I am sorry indeed that it is necessary for me on this occasion to stand before the State Board of Agriculture to discuss the question we are now considering, but I feel honored by the privilege of standing before the State Board of the great State of Illinois. I do not come here prepared with any speech to deliver, but at the suggestion of some of those who do not believe that there are two classes and two distinct races of draft horses today in the Republic of France, I have been solicited to present, in my feeble way, their case. And it seems to me that in their selection they have made a sad mistake, because I believe there are others who would more ably represent their cause than I can do. I sat this morning in this room and heard read the report that is now under consideration, and I want to impress upon the members of this Board the great undertaking they are now contemplating; I want to impress upon your minds the outspreading tendency and great influence your action may have on the breeding industries of the United States; I want you to remember, if you can, the number of horses that have been imported to the United States in the years that have gone by, and then you will realize how directly your decision will affect, not the importers, for I am not here to plead for them, but the breeders of the draft horses of the United States. I believe that the members of

the Illinois State Board of Agriculture, now sitting in committee of the whole on this subject, seek the truth. I do not stand here today presuming that you have made up your minds in regard to this question already, but I believe that as honest men, as men who feel the duty of the position you occupy, which is an honorable one, that you will listen to the statements that are made, and cast your votes upon this question only after you have carefully weighed the evidence that will have been introduced.

Now, I do not wish to speak disrespectfully of any importer, and I wish to be distinctly understood at the opening of my remarks, that it is not my intention to speak with a feeling of enmity or hatred against any person who may differ from me in the opinions I hold; I do not wish to cast any reflection on the report of the committee pending before you today, but it does seem to me that it is more of an argument in favor of the Percheron horse than a clear statement of facts. You may think that is a broad assertion, but if you will allow me I will cite French authorities that stand just as high and have just as much weight as those quoted by gentlemen on the other side, to substantiate my position.

As I understand the question now before the Board, it is not to consider the relative merits of the draft horses of France; it is not to discuss and pass upon the question whether one department furnishes better horses than another, but the question we are now trying to settle is, are there two breeds of draft horses in France and is the Board of Agriculture in Illinois justified in giving to any a separate ring at the State Fair next fall.

As I said before, I believe you are unbiased and unprejudiced. I believe the mission you have to perform is a grander, higher and nobler one than action prompted by self interest. You, gentlemen, are the great palladium of the citizens of the State of Illinois in this direction. You are the ones who are to serve the interest and protect the industries that have been entered into by the farmers, breeders and citizens of the State of Illinois, and I wish to impress it upon your minds that the duty you have to perform is a solemn one, one that will affect the breeding interests of our country for all time to come, and that should not be met with a simple passing comment because there happens to be a few influential men in your midst, if the masses are to suffer by your action.

Now, it is not unreasonable for me to claim, if we can

show that the government of France does not discriminate between these horses, if we can show you that the government of France does not require the horses it buys for its own use to be registered in any stud-book with the exception of the Percheron, for I will admit that owing to the pressure brought to bear by influential Percheron breeders, the government of France had said that it would allow their studs to be registered in the Percheron books, but you meet them in Normandy and other places just as good, and these they do not require to be registered in the stud-book; if we can show you that the horses of Perche are not all of one region, but from all parts of France, for if all sprang from this great stallion we hear so much about—the Arab stallion—they ought to be very much alike; and if we can show that the horses of Perche differ among themselves more than do horses found in all the other departments of France, then it would be better to make two rings for the Perche than two for the entire class of French draft horses. Let us be reasonable. If we can show you again that the Society of Agriculture of France has said that the coupling of a horse of one district with a mare of another district does not beget a cross-bred colt, as they have claimed, then that is another point in our favor. If we can show that many of the horses sold from Perche are not Percherons; if we can show that the Perche is not a breeding district, but that colts bought in other departments are taken to Perche to be “Percheronized,” then that is another point in our favor. If we can show you that the Percheron horse was originally a gray horse and originally a light post horse, weighing only between twelve and fourteen hundred pounds, and that you have infused into his veins not Percheron blood but blood from the “great horses of the North,” which has changed him both in form and color, that is another point in our favor. And if we can show you that after the making of these little changes it now takes an “expert” to pick out a Percheron horse from a French draft horse, then I say we have another point in our favor. If we can show you again that the departments where they claim these different breeds are raised are things of the past, and if we can show you that from 1790 the Republic has not been divided into these districts, but their lines have been obliterated, that the Republic has been re-divided and part of the District of Perche is now in one district and part in another, part of a department according to the present division of France, now in Perche and now again out

of it, that is another point in our favor. And if we can show you that the Percheron people have claimed that because a horse was not fortunate enough to be born on this side of an imaginary line, which circumscribed the Perche, it was a mongrel, and if born on the other side was a pure bred horse; that this same horse, if sold a few days later to some gentleman living within the pale of this "magic circle," who enrols the horse's name among the pure bred horses in the Percheron stud-book, he becomes a full fledged Percheron, then we will have gained another point. Now, you may be well versed in legerdemain, but when I tell you that, in addition to this, they enlarged the Perche last year so as to take in the numerous good horses that were on the outside, and keep the Mortague folks from starting a stud-book in opposition to the Percheron, no doubt it will be difficult for you to understand the "presto-change" by which a horse that was one day a mongrel could the next become a pure-bred animal, simply because the Percheron society willed it. But strange things have happened in France that we are not advised of by this report. And if we can succeed in showing you all these points, as unbiased men, occupying a position of responsibility, men who have the interests of your constituents and of the citizens of Illinois to deal with, I say as fair, unprejudiced, honest men, you cannot accept the report of that committee and make a distinct ring for the so-called Percheron horse.

Now, I might go back and speak from my own personal knowledge, for I presume some of the members of this Board have visited the Republic of France, and I regret that every member of the Board has not had that pleasure and privilege, but perhaps it would not be as strong a point in my argument to tell you what I have seen myself, as it would be to quote from French authorities; because it does seem to me that while my friends are so anxious to bring before this Board French authorities and quote liberally from Charles DuHays and others, it would be well to cite authors who wrote as far back as 1860 and 1872, when there was no controversy, at all events prior to this controversy; and it seems to me, to get down to the bed-rock on this question, to get down to unbiased historians (because biased historians are to be despised), if we can cite such French authorities it would have a better effect to substantiate our position than to speak from personal knowledge and observation.

But there is one thing I want to call your attention to be-

fore I cite those authorities and it almost slipped my memory, it is this: If you realized the position that the members who are presenting that report occupy, together with that occupied by those who are asking you to make a separate ring for their horses, you would see that they seek to stamp upon every horse which doesn't trace from the Percheron stud-book, the words mongrel and cross-breed; they want you to say that the horses bought from my friends who were here prior to this controversy, are no better than grades; they want you to say that Mr. Dillon, the pioneer importer, that noble old citizen of Illinois, had for the last twenty years been a failure, and that the horses imported by him have been no better than mongrels and cross-breeds. Do we cast any such aspersions upon their horses? No. You can decide this question in our favor without hurting anybody, but you can't decide for them on the question, as they have put it before the Board, unless you say, that a horse that isn't in the Percheron stud-book is no better than a grade. But on the other hand, you can decide the question in our favor and not cast a slur on the horses that come from Perche. We don't deny that the horses that come from Perche should have an equal footing with the horses from Normandy, Brittany and the other districts of France. We are here only protesting against anything underhand. We ask you to make a common ring and invite our Percheron friends into that ring and let us contest honorably and fairly for the prize. Do they ask that? No. They say, make a ring for us. Brand their horses as grades. That's what they ask you to do. Why are they afraid to meet us in the show ring? You can't pass upon the report of this committee favorably, unless you stamp as inferior to the Percherons the horses distributed for the last twenty years through the great breeding districts of the United States, and this is just the trap they have set to catch us in. But our position is this: We claim that the horses imported by you as Percherons are not Percherons. We claim that you have infused into their veins the blood of the big horses of the North, and they are today "identical with them." We don't deny that a great many years ago there was a Percheron horse. Your author, Charles DuHays, speaks of that horse and he advises you to take it and keep the strain pure; but is it a horse that weighs from eighteen hundred to two thousand? No; it was a fourteen hundred pound post horse, and all the eminent authors, all the noted hippologists have described the Percheron

horse as a small horse. And I propose to cite some of our prominent authors who ought to be authority, for at the time that these men I cite wrote, they were all of the same opinion. I now call your attention to what Professor J. H. Magne, director of the Imperial Veterinarian School of France, on page 149 of his great statistical work, says :

"We should also point out as contributing powerfully to the uniformity of races the influence exercised by commerce in the countries of production. The horses of the East are incessantly transported into the center and into the West, while those of the borders of the ocean are brought to the center of the country, and while those of the North are taken to the South. There is thus brought about a much more intimate intermixture of races, as very often animals are employed as reproducers in regions into which they have been taken to be raised."

And in support of our position, that the horses found in Perche come from all parts of France, we quote a few lines from M. Lafour, who was inspector general of agriculture in France, and ought to know what he is talking about :

"The colts of Bretagne go into Perche, into Normandy and likewise into Berry. A certain number of fillies come to people the marshes of Poitou. Normandy goes to seek in the marshes of Vendee the coach horse, the forms of which are completed in the dryer prairies of the former regions."

And M. Eugene Gayot, the acknowledged leader of French equine writers, who was formerly director of the breeding studs of France and who wrote in 1872, corroborates the other gentlemen whom I have quoted. He says, among other things :

"It is with the horses of Perche as with those brought into the Plain of Caen, where, as they come, a uniform mode of feeding bends them under the same level and imprints upon them a particular seal which does not allow them to be confounded with their kindred which have not quitted their birth-place. They have ceased in some sort, those to be the horses of Melerault, those to be the products of the valley of Auge, others still to be the horses of Cotentin, of Vendee or of Poitou. They have become horses of the plain. And the same in Perche, all these are children of other regions, which have been brought there in view of the raising and to be reinvested with characteristics which separate them from the products of their own tribes, and gives to them, with the name

Percheron, the appearance and qualities of the horse of Perche."

And I am informed that even Chas. DuHays, the writer to whom the Percheron gentlemen pin their faith, has said that the Percheron family has been destroyed by the admixture of the heavy draft horses of the North and Northeast. And Prof. Magne further bears us out in our position that the horses now imported as Percherons are not Percherons, that they are not bred in the Perche and are the same horse that other persons import under the name French draft horses, and that it makes no difference where we buy them, they all come from the same districts originally. I will now read what Prof. Magne says on page 182 of his "Races Chevalines Leur Amelioration":

"The farmers of Eure-et-Loir (which is the part of the Percheron territory where the most horses are bought by Americans) have sought to utilize their resources and their position. They buy colts in Vendee, Poitou, Bretagne, Normandy, Picardy, Artois, and even Champagne, Nivernais, Bourgogne and Franche-Comte; they keep them for a year or eighteen months and thus sell two or three times as many as they breed."

Now if these horses are any different in blood because of their having gone through the Perche on their way to America, if having breathed for a few short days the air of a particular spot that perhaps is not more than a mile from where they were bred, has caused such a transformation to take place, then we concede the point and say that you are justified in adopting this report.

Now our position is this, that the horse today imported from Perche is not the Percheron horse. They have borrowed the size from the Boulonnais and have darkened the color from the Nivernais. And if they want to keep the race pure why don't they bring over this fourteen hundred pound post horse and make a ring for him? Is it because they can't find him? There are horses today in the southern part of Perche that no Percheron man would bring to America and try to sell to you as Percheron horses. They are steep rumped, their tails well set up in their backs, not like the horses they have been breeding on to our northern draft horse and the horse of Nivernais till they have got him to be a dark horse of two thousand pounds. Have they followed the advice of their eminent author, Charles DuHays, who, when he said that the Percheron

family had been almost lost by breeding to the heavy families of the North, told them there were yet a few specimens around Montagne and advised them to start a record and preserve them in their purity? Now these horses he referred to were small horses, as I shall show you further on, fitted principally for the 'bus, and I again ask you if they have followed his advice? Does the horse that they now call a Percheron and the ones they call their prize winners weigh only 1,400 pounds? Such a horse in the Percheron ring you have been making would be laughed at. They now show as Percherons horses weighing from 1,800 to 2,000 pounds.

Now if we can show you that the Percheron horse was originally only fitted for the 'bus, then you will agree with me that my friends, who sell nothing but Percherons, must have found some means of increasing the size of their horses. We are told in this report that these horses were eagerly sought after in Paris. What for? To haul loads, to use for draft purposes? No; but to travel with, to work on the 'buses. They were small horses. Perhaps no gentleman with whom your honorable president has corresponded has tried harder to weave a wreath of laurels for the Percheron than Mon. Tisserand, and he says, in his letter which is copied in this report, that "it is the model draft horse; it was formerly the stage coach horse and the horse used on diligences. Statistics for the past twenty years show that the Paris Omnibus Company have purchased 65.31 per cent. of Percherons for use on their 'buses." From this it would seem that the best place to buy Percherons in all their primitive purity would be in the 'bus stables of Paris.

The renowned hippologist, M. Lafour, has said: "If one decides in favor of the draft horse, the French race offers to-day all that could be desired. Does one wish the large, shapely draft horse, he will find the great Boulonnais race of Bourbourg. Does one wish more fleetness, the Percheron, improved by a little thorough-blood, furnishes the horse of the post, the omnibus, of the diligence."

Prof. Magne does not consider the Perche a district suitable to the production of draft horses, and is good authority in support of our position. He says:

"The Breton race and the Percheron race are considered as exclusively fitted to the service of coaches; furnish some horses which suit very well for draying and for the hard work of the quarries, while in the strong races of the North are

found excellent diligence horses. The races proper for diligence are, however, produced to the greatest advantage upon the plateaux, in which great cultivation is practiced; and the largest, the most massive races in the fertile pastures of the maritime regions, from Dunkirk to Bordeaux, and in the humid valleys of the great rivers."

Does Magne tell you that the great horse they are bringing over today was originally produced in Perche? No; he tells you it was produced in the northern regions. He tells you that as you travel towards the central portion of France the horses become smaller and more peculiarly adapted to coaches and posts.

But I might turn back to this report, if it would not take up too long a time, and I might show you that Mr. Sanders, of the "Breeder's Gazette," who now believes the Percherons a distinct breed and who was doubtless eminent authority on this question, at the same time that these gentlemen wrote, was almost of the same opinion as they. He is quoted in this amended report where he tells you:

"Other crosses besides these have undoubtedly been used to some extent by the breeders of La Perche, but this infusion of northern blood is the only source from which the Percheron race has drawn increased size, except what has been gained by selection of the larger specimens within itself for breeding purposes."

He says there that they have increased the size of the Percheron horse by breeds found in the north. It seems to me that ought to be received as good authority by every gentleman on the Board. Now, there is another person who has contributed his knowledge of horse breeding in France toward making up this report that your honorable body has under consideration, and the gentleman referred to is M. Andrew Sanson, Professor of Zoology at the National College of Agriculture of Grignon. He bears us out in our position where he says:

"The colts of La Perche are raised in the neighborhood of Montagne, Belleme, Nogent-le-Rotrou, Saint Calais, Chartres and Mondoubleau. Most of them are then taken to the plain of Chartres, where they grow up. The plain of Chartres is also supplied with colts belonging to other races. When these colts arrive at a certain age, they are sold to the trade, and the demand for them is so great that one can readily understand how actively the traffic is carried on. The bringing

up of the colts is profitable in two ways. Bought when eighteen months old, they work at tilling the ground, a labor requiring little strength on account of the loamy nature of the soil, which has not, so far, needed deep cultivation. Among the cereals cultivated oats are the most plentiful. The light work which these colts have to do when young, is the chief factor in the merit of the horses brought up in this district. Abundantly fed with hay and oats, and exercised by drawing the cart, plow or harrow, colts develop under the best conditions, and acquire in growing up, a solid and healthy constitution and an admirable carriage. At the age of eighteen months they eat every day, from six to eight pounds of oats, which allowance increasing in proportion as they get older, is brought up to sixteen and eighteen pounds."

I give you all that he says now in this connection, that you may have the advantage of both sides :

"The farmers of the plain of Chartres buy only stud colts, and do not castrate them. Nothing is, therefore, easier than to select a stallion from this numerous herd. While these facts show how great is the horse trade in Perche and Beauce, generally speaking they also indicate the road to be followed in order to preserve this breed and still more improve it. If therefore, we meet in the trade, under the name of Percheron, horses belonging to other breeds, it is not because the breeders of Perche raise these other breeds. It is long since their own production of colts sufficed to meet the demands of the farmers of Beauce, who undertake to raise them from the age of eighteen months—because with the increased trade the demand has increased in excess of the supply. The Paris dealers and their agents incessantly run over the whole country of Beauce, paying big prices for all the horses they can get. In order to satisfy these constant demands the farmers have been obliged to have recourse to other sources. In that way was established the custom of introducing into Beauce colts bought in Poitou, on the coast of Brittany, Picardy and Boulonnais. These colts being grey, as are the most of the Percherons, and fed in the same way, acquire under the influences of food and work, some of the qualities of the pure breed, and are sold under the name of Percheron. In order to express this fact an assumed name has been created—they are said to be Percheronized."

Did you notice in your report this morning, that the colts are gathered all over France and taken into Perche where they become "Percheronized"—did you get that? But if they buy

a horse outside he can't come into the ring they are asking you to make. I might buy one, and he wouldn't be the thing at all—he is not eligible. But my friend could buy one after he had been taken over the line there and he might show him in the privileged ring while I would be entirely shut out. Mr. Sanson says :

“In order to express this fact an assumed name has been created—they are said to be Percheronized, and the Poitou, Picardy and Boulonnais horses become so-called Percherons.”

This is the report—the Boulonnais horses become the big Percherons, “the Bretons, small Percherons. Their identity, however, is not difficult to recognize, for they have not lost the definite features of their own breeds.”

Gentlemen, I will now cite a resolution where they ask an expert to be appointed to pick out these Percheron horses and brand them, and I shall cite you where an expert tried it and failed in France. Why, send any member of this State Board out into the stable and tell him to separate the horses, and I venture there is not a man on the board who can tell the difference between a French draft and a Percheron, simply because the same blood flows in their veins and they are one and the same horse. But for the sake of argument, a thought has struck me and I propose to show that they do differ in peculiar things, and I am going to acknowledge it for the sake of argument, but if they do you are deceived in supposing them to be different horses with different blood in their veins. To illustrate, a peculiarity adopted in the north is to dock the horse a little shorter than they do in the south, where some are not docked at all. There is a peculiarity. (Laughter.) And I want to ask you if a horse with a short tail would get any different colt from a horse with a long tail, if the blood was the same? I might go on and use other little things to illustrate, show what I mean by difference in peculiarity.

Now, within the last year I was in the Nivernais. I was also at the Montagne show where so many facts were gathered for this report. I was in Nievre, and I met a gentleman buying colts, but he never sells anything but Percherons (?), sends Percheron horses to America, where today some are gaining great fame. And I met that man buying colts, and I know he bought five colts that I wanted to buy, and I am told he bought forty colts altogether, and he says, “Some of the colts I have purchased are the best I have ever owned;” but he says some of them are a little light in the bone; I will put them on my

farm, he says, and those not heavy enough I will take down on the plateau and leave them there two summers and they will then be heavy enough in the bone. There is a class, you are going to increase the size of their bone. But do you change their blood any? No; not a bit. Yet if those horses don't get over into Perche and get into the Percheron stud-book, and you bring them to Chicago, you couldn't show them against their brothers born on the very same farm. When I drove out to see those five colts that I wanted to buy myself and couldn't, my friend told me not to be disappointed, he said it wouldn't make much difference as I could buy them next year, and then they would be Percherons.

MR. DUNHAM: Does he live in Perche?

MR. STUBBS: Yes, sir.

Now it does seem to me that the authorities I have cited show that Percheron horses are not always raised in Perche, and that such intermixing is going on there that you can't tell with certainty what part of France a horse comes from. But I said awhile ago that it was almost impossible to pick out a Percheron horse and I don't believe it can be done. I know friends who have a standing proposition to give a man a horse, who can separate Percheron horses from other draft horses that come from France, but I never have heard of a horse being won on that proposition yet. Now it so happened that awhile ago some gentlemen conceived the idea that in order to tell a Percheron horse from a French draft horse, in order to tell a horse that was raised on this side of the line from one that was raised on the other side, although the owner of the outside one might have been close enough to look over into the other's yard, that wouldn't save him; in order to discriminate between these two, they were going to appoint an expert. They didn't say who would watch the expert. But they were going to appoint an expert and going to have him brand a Percheron number on the horse. Here is the resolution, and I believe it was introduced at the last Percheron meeting in Chicago:

"RESOLVED, That the Societe Hippique Percheronne of France be urged to adopt stringent measures in order to put a stop to the frauds being committed by changing of certificates by Parisan dealers; and that it is the sense of this meeting that the most practical plan is for the Societe Hippique Percheronne to appoint an expert whose duty it shall be to examine each animal presented for registry, and that the stud-book number of such animal be prominently branded upon it."

Now, the idea of coming before this Board and telling them that the Percheron horse is the best horse on earth and not like any other horse; long hip, short back, don't have any hairs on its legs; but at the same time they are going to appoint "an expert" to brand a number on him to keep him from being mixed up with other breeds. Would it be necessary to brand a Devon bull to tell it from a Short-horn; not by any means; but you might have trouble telling which was which if you got two Short-horns from different families. And that suggests another point. If you are going to make one separate ring for each particular family of French draft horses, what are you going to do with the Short-horn men? Why don't you give them a ring for every family of Short-horns? And if you do that, we want you to give us a ring for the Boulonnais horse, and another ring for the Nivernais, and another for the Breton horse, because, as I am going to show you, they cannot either of them be told from the Percheron. And when you give us rings for all the horses of the different departments of France it will take almost the whole State of Illinois to make a fair ground. (Laughter.) But if you treat one to a ring you must treat all that way. Now, Professor Magne tells us:

"Inasmuch as there are crossings being continually effected between the races one meets in Perche itself, many horses have origins we cannot precisely tell. We made a trial of this matter in the environs of Lisieux in 1845. A master of post—a man very expert in the knowledge of horses, maintained that it was always easy to distinguish the animals of the two productions, the Percheron and the Breton. Five horses which waited to take the diligence, found in point before the door of a stable, served for the demonstration. It was easy to distinguish among the five one Percheron and one Breton; in two others the characteristics of the Percherons and Bretons could be recognized, but respecting the fifth it was impossible to say positively from which of the two races he derived his principal characteristics, although to every untrained eye he would not have differed from his companions. It was, therefore not without reason that not long ago the Percheron horse was considered a variety of the Breton."

Doesn't that show they are mingled together and mixed up? Yet they stand before the State Board of Illinois and ask you to give them a separate and distinct class for a horse of Breton because he has lived in the district of Perche. They talk about the Percheron being a descendant of the Arab horse.

Did you ever get any draft blood out of an Arab stallion? No; they are saddle horses, horses made to travel on the sandy deserts and to undergo great hardships on small feed, not a draft horse at all. It is easy enough to trace this great big two thousand pound Percheron horse to the larger races of the north, as they call them. But, as I have told you, that the Perche didn't raise the colts that they sold, I now wish to cite a few statistics. I find in the year 1858 the horses were distributed through the different departments as follows: Normandy had 322,574 horses, divided as follows: 113,959 stallions, 178,210 mares and 30,405 colts, showing an excess of 64,257 mares over stallions. Brittany* had 32,095 stallions, 80,193 mares and 28,739 colts. In my judgment these districts make a very good showing for breeding districts, yet there are others which have a greater number of mares than these, but the ones referred to will suffice for my purpose.

And now let us see what Perche has to raise her colts from. In 1858 she had 28,369 stallions, 12,025 mares and 2,519 colts. Thus we see that Perche is the only horse department having more horses than mares, and this is one reason that we claim she does not produce the colts she sells.

If you claim that the condition of things have changed in the Perche since 1858 then I would call your attention to what M. Lafour said in 1879, almost twenty years later. He says:

"The number of colts born in Perche itself must not be estimated at more than 2,000. The horse population of Perche, properly so called, amounts to about 30,000."

Does that show Perche to be a breeding district? Doesn't that show conclusively where the horses come from? It seems to me it ought to.

Now I don't know any better way to hasten along in this argument on the point here presented to the Board for consideration, if I am not occupying your time too long—because it is an important question, and perhaps your decision is to be final, and I think you ought to be in possession of all the facts we have to lay before you—than to call your attention to what these eminent authors say; these persons who are noted hippologists; such men as Magne, Lafour and Eugene Guyot. I call them to substantiate the position I have taken, and if the translations are disputed I have it all in the original French, and no doubt there are gentlemen here who read French. I have said that the Percheron family is not an old one, and in speaking of

this Mr. Guyot says, and he has become famous on account of the equine works he has given to the world:

"There is not a modern writer who has not paid his tribute of eulogy to the Percheron horse—to the Percheron race. This is an usurped reputation upon which the light will soon be thrown. At the commencement of the present century Perche possessed only a small, indifferent horse population. The origin of the Percherons, of which there has been so much talk, was not before 1810, and it had for its starting point, the somewhat accidental meeting upon neutral grounds of the draft races of Bretagne and the Boulonnais family. Before devoting themselves to the cultivation of the horse, the inhabitants of Perche served themselves almost exclusively with oxen in the labors of agriculture. * * * Of all draft races this is the most recent. It was born under the influence of a need of which it became the highest expression, in the time of the greatest activity of the service of the mails and of the coaches. It is in no respect a spontaneous product of the soil and climate, but a creation of circumstances evolved from the hand of man, under the favorable influences, however, of the soil. It has been said that independent of the climate, within an enclosure of its own, one might pledge himself to make the Percheron horse anywhere, even in crowded Limousin.

It is therefore, only a fictitious race, and not a type, as some have written, and has been so many times repeated. Nor is it what can be called a pure race, as it has been so frequently styled, for it has neither antiquity, homogeneity, nor constancy. In the first fifty years of its existence it received, indeed, several important modifications in its almost incessant intermixture with varieties very far removed from one another, and this was so marked that the most complete definition, the most exact, perhaps, that was given of it at the time it was eagerly sought, is this: the Percheron horse is a grey horse. Indeed, one finds everything in Perche under cover of a grey mantle. There come into Perche by thousands every year colts born in Bretagne, and a very great number of the products of Boulonnais, of Flanders and of Picardy, in which regions live three quite distinct varieties of the thick, powerful draft horse. There are in Perche, in short, the products of the whole country, and these begotten, as we have already stated, by a great variety of stallions. It is not with elements so dissimilar that we obtain a race pure, homogeneous and uniform in its hereditary qualities. The Percheron race has, in fact, so little

facility of reproducing itself in a uniform manner that nowhere is it found with its exterior forms and characteristics, with its special aptitudes and qualities, although people have attempted to reproduce it almost everywhere in all parts of France and even in foreign lands."

There is where I get my authority that the little district of Perche that they are seeking to control is not the source of the breed they are producing under that name. Remember the language of Eugene Guyot, where he says, "of all the draft horses in France today the Percheron is the most recent." I would like to read a great deal more from M. Guyot, but I have not time. I now call your attention again to what Professor Magne says:

"The equestrian industry, which has for its object the production and the raising of Percheron horses, is not limited to the region whose name the animals bear. It extends also into Beauce, into parts of the Isle of France, of Normandy, of Maine, of Orleans. * * * The good horses which this province (Perche) gives to commerce, instead of being the natural product of the soil, as are the Breton horses, the Normandy horses, etc, etc., are the result of the labor of man. They are the product of the combined action of the natural pastures and the artificial forage, of the good feed, fodder and grain, which in consequence of the progress of cultivation, have been distributed in the stable. This may be said for the departments so numerous, which think to import the Percheron race in importing some stallions and mares purchased in Perche. It is, above all, the mode of raising, the cultivation of good fodder, the habit of giving much oats to young animals, while working them in moderation, that the departments which are anxious to produce good horses should seek to import."

There was another French writer who wrote prior to any controversy. This was the eminent historian, M. Lafour, and I now call your attention to what he has to say on the points in question:

"The Breton draft horse is confounded with the Percheron. Indeed a great number of Breton colts emigrate every year into Perche and the Percheron stallion is frequently employed in Cotes-du-Nord. The coat of both is generally dapple grey or roan. * * * The Percheron, which is chosen for the omnibuses and the diligences, has a head more slender and more conical, a neck straight and a little more slender though strong, the limbs dryer and more nervous. One might object

to their shoulder, which is rather straight, and to their forearm, which is sometimes lacking a little in strength. Today the tendency is to enlarge the race, all the material of it being preserved. The Percheron well developed, passes by insensible shades, into the Boulonnais."

I would like to comment upon these authorities, but will not take your time. When we do find a good horse in the Perche, Prof. Magne has told us how it comes about. If you want to import a Percheron horse, he says, import a sack of oats, don't go there to get your horse. That is what makes him a little better in other respects, because there is where he is always fixed up, with his tail combed out and his mane laid over on the right side, and a great manger full of hay and a good sack of oats, and if you want to make your horse first-class, bring your sack of oats along with you. That is what Professor Magne tells you. It is not in the blood.

The authorities cited show that the Perche is peculiarly adapted to the raising of horses—not to breeding.

Now there is another thing I want to call your attention to, and I will do it briefly. We hear the Perche spoken of, Normandy spoken of, the Nivernais, the Boulonnais, the Poitou, but principally the Perche. And when you hear men speak of the district of Perche, they speak of it just as though it existed today in the Republic of France, as the State of Illinois exists in the sisterhood of states. We are apt to think that the line that separates the Perch province from Normandy, is as well defined, as easy to find, and as easily understood by those who study geography a little, as the boundary between Illinois and her sister states across the Father of Waters. But is that the case? No. In 1790, history tells us France was divided into departments, and I have procured a map which shows the departments. Now here is Brittany that they talk so much about, and there is Normandy you have heard so much about, and there is the Boulonnais country you have heard so much about, and there is the little district in there—there is Perche hanging on to the bottom of Normandy, and where, if you get over the line, a horse is not of pure breed. A little bit of a district you see, but that has been changed—changed last year as I have said, so as to take in another district of Montagne, to prevent the starting of another stud book—got more pure horses there now than they had a few years ago. If you should ask a man—ask Captain Brown, who has lived in France for thirty years, actively engaged in the horse

business, he would tell you he don't know the line that divides, circumscribes the Perche. If you ask any man where Perche ends and Normandy begins, he can't tell you. Ask a man about the Mississippi Valley; where is it? He will tell you right out west by the Mississippi River. Anybody ought to know that, but when you get into it, or when you get out of it, you cannot tell, for you can't consult some gentlemen who have a stud-book depending upon it. I say I have the map here, and I defy any man to find the department of Perche. The departments have been changed, and lines obliterated, and the boundaries once established, exist only in history of a hundred years ago.

But the worst thing about the proposition now before the Board is this: They have sought in that report, to brand all horses not from the district of Perche, as mongrels. If they would say, gentlemen, the Percheron horse is the best horse in the world—we are going to call him in and we will meet you in the show ring, for that is the proper place, and prove there what we claim—we would have no objection. But they don't treat us fairly. I know it has been incorporated in the amended report, that they don't antagonize any race, or breed, or class of horses or importers, but they seek to stamp on every horse that has not come from a horse registered in their stud-book, the word mongrel. They have said so in that report. And that is not all. I am told they have gone so far as to inform the agricultural board in France that there is nobody in this part of the country, Iowa or Illinois, but what was satisfied with the Percheron book and wanted the French Draft stud-book suppressed. Let us investigate and we will see whether they are antagonizing any breed or not. I repeat, we would not say a word if they would say, we have the best horse and will make a ring, and we want to let these gentlemen see—want them to see our horse led out into the ring, and let them judge whether we have the best horse or not. But they don't want to do that. They want to say that every other horse is a grade. We are not here to say that a book of pedigrees should not follow a horse, but we are here to say that a horse that comes through the French Draft book is just as good a horse as the horse that comes through the Percheron book, and that is all we claim and all we have ever claimed, and I believe you ought to entertain our construction on that point because of its fairness.

You can't imagine, even when you sit down and try, the

number of horses bought from such men as Dillon, from such men as my friend Mr. Virgin here, such men as have made Illinois famous for horses, long, long before the first volume of the Percheron stud-book was published, in 1883. How many horses came over here before 1883? They came by thousands. Men invested their little farms in horses, their little homes they covered with a mortgage to buy a horse, and here is a corporation of people today importing Percheron horses, and they ask that this great institution of the State of Illinois should put down these men, and because their horses have not a pedigree from a particular stud-book, to brand them as mongrel. I ask you in the name of heaven, in the name of all that is right, if you are going to listen to that kind of a proposition? Gentlemen, you can't do it; this thing is too outspreading, too wide, of too much importance, there is too much money invested in it. I know they make a great cry about seventy-five per cent, of all the money in horses being invested in the Percheron race, but I appeal to you if there is anything in the statutes of Illinois or the Constitution of the United States that says a man has to be a millionaire before he can import a stallion? If I am only able to own one horse and some other gentleman is able to own five hundred, can you deny that all I have is as dear to me as what the wealthier man may have?

But there is another nice little point that arises in the discussion of this question, and it just occurs to my mind. I believe it is embodied in the amended report, or it appears somewhere there, that the Boulonnais part of the stud-book contains eighty-one pages, the Nivernais forty-four, and so on, and the Percheron contains eight hundred pages, and they seek to impress on you the magnitude of the industry in which they are engaged, seek to bewilder you by holding up the mighty weight of dollars invested in the Percheron (?) horse, showing you that there are many more Percheron horses than any other kind in the stud-book. I want to ask you this question, what book was old "Louis Napoleon" in when he was imported? I want to ask you what stud book was "Old Success" in when he was brought here? I want to know if they bought "Louis Napoleon" or "Old Success" because of their pedigree? And I want to know further if he is not registered in the first volume of the stud-book, and at the same time if he was not imported here years and years before he was put into that stud-book, years before the stud-books they are now in were dream-

ed of? Another thing, eight hundred pages they say, but they don't state how they are compiled, how they are worked up, how they contain horses brought here years ago, before any record in France was kept, but they bring that in to confuse and bewilder this Board.

The report of the commission for France, what do they say? I don't mean to read the report. When you heard this report that was read here this morning, they said what? That the French draft book contained the Boulonnais race, the Nivernais race, the Breton race and the Percheron race, and that the other horses in it were mongrel. That is what they say and that is just their claim. That is the "slight of hand" work going on here, what they are trying to get this board to pass. That is the gist of the whole thing. Who said that? Well, the gentlemen that made the report. I can take those propositions, I can spend a month, and if the Board would like to have us do it, we can furnish a report more voluminous than that from reliable men in France that will speak very differently. You submitted to our association on the seventeenth of November some questions. We have not had time to get them answered, not because we are afraid to do it. But if you seek French authority it seems to me we have enough at hand. I want to ask you if you are going to accept the proposition made by that amended report? Always when a case is tried before a jury you take into consideration what interest the witness has. Now, I want to know if you are going to totally disregard what has been said by the twenty-five commissioned men, commissioned by the Agricultural Society of the Republic of France, to investigate these matters, and who are wholly disinterested, and declare that if they said the French Draft horse is a pure bred horse, they don't mean a word of it, but have testified falsely, don't know the kind of horses they have put in the French stud-book—are you going to do that? These gentlemen, and they are men supposed to be unbiased, placed there under the patronage of the Agricultural Society of France which has appointed them as men who were not biased, and what do they say? They refute the argument that all those other horses are nothing but mongrel. They do say they have published a book. The Boulonnais came in, and the Nivernais came in and asked them to publish. The Percherons too. At first they refused, but finally they did. They all said you are a great institution—we want you to publish our book, and so the Agricultural Society of France took them all in, took in the

Percheron book, virtually reprinted it. And if you read the French Draft stud-book the first thing you find is a rule that says every horse must now go straight to that book, and not through the local stud-book.

But I want to call your attention to what the commission has said about the "mongrel class"—for that is the most unkind thing they could have said about the pioneer importers and their horses—seeking to set them out as frauds—as importing stallions and selling them for full blood when they were not so. I don't believe under the circumstances this board will settle upon any conclusion of that kind. I now quote from the preface to the French Draft stud-book of France. That commission of twenty-five men, unbiased and unprejudiced, says this:

I. None to be recognized as draught-stock and admitted as such to record in the pedigree-book; open to this category of the equine race, under the patronage of the Council of Administration of the Society of French Agriculturists; except stallions, mares and products born in France from ancestors of the two sexes in the origin whereof there shall not have been discovered any trace of union with animals of another sort, with any progenitor whatever of other blood.

II. None to be denominated half-breeds or crosses which are animals springing from alliances between progenitors appertaining to any one of the equine families primitively constituted in distinct tribes in Bretagne, in Le Perche, Le Boulonnais, in our Ardennes, or in any other of our tribes of large horses.*

* This disposition has been criticised; a Boulonnais stallion and an Ardennes mare—a Percheron stallion and a Bretagne mare, do not give, they say, either a Boulonnais or Ardennais, or Percheron or Bretagne, but a half-breed of these races.

We answer: Draft animals and not other. These different progenitors can not give, and, in fact, do not give, anything but draft horses, without the mixture of other blood.

In the reproduction of races known to be of pure blood, the products born here or there, in countries sometimes far removed from each other, from the alliance of animals of the same sort, have never heretofore been considered cross products. An Irish stallion and an English mare, both inscribed among the nobility of the species, produce pure blood like themselves. It is the same with any stallions whatever, of pure blood, united to brood mares of their race, no matter where they are born, be it on the Continent or in America. Married among themselves, reproducers of pure blood, wherever they are, produce neither half-boods nor crosses.

III. The question of purity concentrates itself entirely in this declaration. No mixture of foreign blood in the race of French draught horses, which, in point of view of its capabilities, offers by its most complete representatives these two divisions equally renowned, draught horses for trotting, draught horses for walking, or heavy draughts, in contradistinction to that other very just appellation, light draught horses.

IV. The right to registration will be established by a special application for each animal, showing the needed testimonials, as far as concerns possession, origin, description, genealogy, performances, if there are any, all in conformity with a printed model furnished by the Society of France.

What do you think of that statement, when these gentlemen are coming in here pleading for the report which was read this morning, calling these horses mongrels, and asking you to brand them as such, when the rules from which I have just read, emanating from a commission appointed by the high and august body of the Agricultural Society of France, in explicit terms says, it does not beget a cross-breed to breed a mare and stallion of different districts; "the Irish stallion and English mare produce pure blood like themselves."

Your commission, appointed last year to investigate this question and report to the Board of Agriculture of Illinois, tell you they have seen the president of the board of France. Yes, and I did too, and I know he is a very nice gentleman, a perfect gentleman. The position he occupies is a dignified one, and he does not wish to interfere in any controversy that may arise between this district and that district, but wants to remain entirely neutral. I will tell you what, they say what I have just read from that commission of twenty-five is not the opinion of the French board. Didn't the board adopt that? I guess so. If the report of your commission, now before this body, should be adopted, it would be the expression of this honorable body, would it not? It seems to me so.

The premises and conclusions are the same in both cases.

Let the Boulonnais Stud-book inscribe only Boulonnais animals, let the Percheron Stud-Book resolve to inscribe only animals of that type, and let it be the same for all the special stud-books; it is strict and firm logic; it is a necessary thing without which the denomination adopted has no further foundation nor precise meaning. But no such idea is contradicted when, rising above the notion of family, we mount to that of the type which dominates it.

Now, I have cited you much from French authors, and I might quote at further length if I took the time. I have attempted to show you that the horses they today import as Percheron horses are not so. I don't say but what some of the Percheron horses are just as good as any other horse, don't pretend to say he is inferior, but I do pretend to say there are other horses just as good as the Percheron horse, for they are all alike, there is not a bit of difference, and it is not right for one man, nor for a community, or corporation, or anybody else to try to monopolize the horse trade, by confining it to one little district because it is so small that they think they can "corner" it. That is what I mean.

I now quote, gentlemen, from your report, on page 39, from the extract there copied, which was written by Mr. Sanders in 1878, a little time prior to the controversy over these horses. And it does seem to me a gentleman at that time so well versed should be considered authority, especially as he seemed to coincide with the French authors I have cited. I now call your attention to what he said in the paragraph printed in this report on page 39:

"As these immense draft horses of the north were closely allied to if not identical with the large breed that prevailed in Normandy and La Perche prior to the modifications produced by the introduction of the Arabian and the Barb heretofore alluded to, it was very natural that when the Percheron breeders found it desirable to increase the size of their horses, their eyes should be turned toward this kindred race from which other countries had already drawn so heavily for the same purpose. Accordingly we find that mares in large numbers were taken from the northern department, and from Belgium, under the various names of Belgians, Boulonnais, mares of Picardy, etc., and were bred to the stallions of La Perche. Stallions from the same countries were also extensively introduced under various names and of slightly differing types, but, notwithstanding the multiplicity of names arising from the different departments in which they had been bred and the slight variation in form that existed, they were after all nothing more nor less than the Norman and Flanders draft horses, the same blood that had already exercised so potent an influence upon the horse stock of Great Britain."

MR. SANDERS: Since you are reading, read the whole connection together, it will give the author's meaning a little better.

MR. STUBBS: This was written in 1878. I have read before a part which I omitted just now, but, as the gentleman wants me to read it all together, I will read that again:

"Other crosses besides these have undoubtedly been used to some extent by the breeders of La Perche, but this infusion of northern blood is the only source from which the Percheron race has drawn increased size, except what has been gained by selection of the largest specimens within itself for breeding purposes."

He tells you the only other way they came to be big horses was by breeding from the horses of the north. Now I read on:

"The new infusion of this ancient kindred blood has been so general throughout the entire district, which was once the home of the Percheron horse, that it is now difficult to find a pure Percheron as they were bred in that region fifty years ago."

As he goes on you will see he understood that the old Percheron was a small horse:

"The old type that once made these horses so famous has been sacrificed to the demands of commerce for greater size, and for many years past it has been the chief aim of the Percheron breeders to produce a horse that should comply with this demand without sacrificing the activity, hardiness and docility for which the ancient Percheron race was famed."

I read on:

"Subject to the change above alluded to, the Percheron is still extensively bred in the departments of Eure, Orne, Eure-et-Loir, Loir-et-Cher and Sarthe; and they have also found their way further north and towards the sea coast in the departments of Seine-Inferieure and Calvados, embracing almost the entire ancient province of Normandy; but nowhere are they found so purely bred and so nearly allied to the original Percheron type as in the five departments first above mentioned, their original home. In that part of Normandy lying along the coast, especially north of the Seine river, the Flemish element seems to have made its influence more strongly felt, and there the horses possess more of the Flemish and less of the Percheron characteristics than those bred farther south in the heart of La Perche, which will account for the diversity in the character of the horses brought to this country by our importers. Those who have purchased near the coast or north of the river Seine have usually obtained horses that leaned strongly toward the Flemish type. They are larger, coarser

and more sluggish, with less energy, endurance and action than those bred in Eure-et-Loir and the adjacent departments. They are better adapted to heavy draft purposes than their lighter but more hardy, active and stylish relations of the interior, frequently weighing from seventeen hundred to two thousand pounds in high flesh and producing larger when crossed upon our common stock."

What does he say, the Percheron horse? No; but the other horse is better adapted for a draft horse. The construction I put upon that sentence, and I believe I am entitled to do it, is that he thinks the horse in the interior didn't weigh from seventeen hundred to two thousand pounds; but didn't the Percherons that showed in Chicago last fall, claiming to stand at the head of our greatest studs, didn't those horses weigh over seventeen hundred? Seems to me they did, some of them weighed two thousand pounds.

And now it may be unjust to remark it, but there seems to be a constant change of opinion going on with some of these men, and the gentleman who wrote what I have just been reading doesn't feel and think now as he did then, that is to say, perhaps he doesn't. But I say what he wrote then ought to be taken as conclusive now, for this reason: it was written at a time when there was no cause for a man to lean this way or that way; it was written at a time when no opinion was sought between two conflicting interests of the great west; it was made at a time when the author looked ahead into the broad future without being able to discover a cloud or imagine any conflict between importers of French Draft horses and Percheron horses; written at a time when all had joined together in peaceful harmony and agreed on the names of "Percheron-Norman" and "Norman-Percheron," and there was everything to inspire a man to write just as he felt. But there is something else which confirms me. I have received a catalogue which published resolutions which were passed some years after, commending the gentleman who wrote what I have been reading. And I say the gentleman deserved it. It was a very able thing, and I believe now it is exactly correct, exactly correct today. I believe, as the Percheron-Norman society did when they read that, and complimented him with nearly all the great Percheron importers in the meeting, and I can't understand how they could have changed their minds so in so short a time, for in 1884 they evidently endorsed every word Mr. Sanders had said, because I find in Mr. Dunham's

catalogue of that year the following resolutions, passed at their annual meeting, which read as follows:

“RESOLVED, That the history of the Percheron-Norman horse, published by J. H. Sanders, as an introduction to his stud-book, is the most valuable contribution to the literature pertaining to this matchless breed of horses which has ever been written in this country or Euproe; and that for the labor and ability which he has bestowed upon his work, Mr. Sanders has placed the National Association of Importers and Owners of Percheron-Norman horses, as well as all others interested in the improvement of our horses, under great and lasting obligation to him.

RESOLVED: That, while the registry of animals contains some errors, mostly typographical, the work on the whole, gives evidence of much labor and care; and that, both as a history and a record, the stud-book is worthy of the entire confidence of the people.

RESOLVED: That, the stud-book is calculated greatly to increase the popularity of the Percheron-Norman horse in this country; and that it is not only to the interest, but it is the duty of all importers and owners to aid in its circulation.

RESOLVED: That Mr. Sanders has not only labored conscientiously in our behalf, but in performing his task, he has adhered substantially to the spirit of the covenant made between him and our association.”

Mr. Sanders said that he could scarcely express the gratification he felt at the hearty manner in which these resolutions indorsed the fruits of his labor, etc.

Now it may seem strange, but in this very same catalogue I find some remarks of Mr. Isaiah Dillon, made at the same meeting, and they are so direct in point that I will read them, and after twenty years experience Mr. Dillon ought to know what he was talking about. Mr. Dillon said:

“Many people use both names from policy. Some people wanted a Percheron horse, others wanted a Norman, not understanding the fact that they were substantially the same; and breeders and importers used both names, so that they could suit all classes of customers. It was the same in France. If a dealer found an American customer who wanted Percheron horses, he always had them; if he wanted Normans, why, that was just the kind of horse he had. The same horse was a Norman or Percheron, as occasion might require. For his part, he would be in favor of dropping both names and calling

them French Draft Horses. But he did not think Mr. Sanders had done right in going contrary to the resolution of the meeting of two years ago, without first submitting the matter to the Board of Directors. He was in favor, however, of harmonious action, and wanted the question of name definitely settled, so that people might understand that a Percheron horse was a Norman horse, and that a Norman horse was a Percheron horse."

Now, gentlemen, I have already occupied your time a great deal longer than I intended, and perhaps I have imposed myself on you longer than I should under the circumstances but I have yet left unsaid a great many things that I would like to have said. But I have tried to condense my remarks so as to present them to you in a reasonable length of time. I wish, however, to say in conclusion, that owing to the outspreading influence and tendency that your decision may have if you should favor the object of this report—knowing the tendency it would have to curb the interests of breeders—I wish you to consider well before you decide. They ask you for this! Why? They have contended when they came before this Board, that their purpose was to stimulate competition, but now I ask you, and I ask you fairly and squarely, as honest, unbiased men who are reasonable and wish to perform your duties impartially to all citizens, not only of Illinois, but of Iowa, and the nation at large—I want to ask you if it will incite competition to say to these men—yes, we will make a ring for you; you can come in and show your horses; these men can't show against you because their horses are not in your stud-book. I want to know if that is the way you make competition? If you want to encourage competition; if you want horses to stand on their individual merits, as they should; if you want them to come out before the people of the State of Illinois, and exhibit for the merits in them, the way people should do in the show ring; just make one common ring, and invite Mr. Virgin and myself to show our horses against the Percheron horses. And then if the gentlemen with the Percheron horses are deserving of the compliments they pay themselves, and of the reputation they are seeking, let your verdict in the show ring be conclusive. I say if you adopt the course they are asking you to adopt, you will substantially curb all competition, and you will wipe out one of the grandest industries ever started in this country. You will curb it as it is spreading out, and say that because lately, other men have grown up who are more power-

ful, and who import more horses, we will draw the line in 1883; because that is as far back as they can go. There they reach the first volume of their stud-book, the first one ever published for draft horses in France. I know they pretend to trace back as far as "Gallipoli," but I want to know how they can do that when the first publicantion of the stud-book was in 1883?

We do demand justice! We ask it at your hands. We believe we are entitled to show our horses against theirs if ours have come from France, because the society of France has said that among such there is no difference. The most profound hippologists in the Republic of France, have told us that those horses have become so mixed up you can't find a Percheron horse. They have told us that the horse imported today is not the typical Percheron horse; and I do say that in the consideration of this question, you should go down to the bottom of these things. You should see how it comes before this Board. It doesn't come before you as they say—not wishing to antagonize anything—but it comes like this: They say in so many words, gentlemen, we have started a stud-book for the Perche, and we want you to recognize it as the only book in France, for it don't make any difference what the Agricultural Society of France say; what gentlemen who have crossed the ocean say; what such old horse importers as my grey-haired and respected friend, Mr. Ellis Dillon, say; don't make any difference when it was that "Old Success" was brought over here; we are great, we are powerful, we are opulent, and we want you now to recognize us and make a special ring for us, and we want you to brand all other horses distributed by these other American importers that have gone to California, to the Gulf States, to the Lakes on the north, from the Atlantic to the Pacific they are scattered, and are now producing horses of the best kind; we have come here, and we want you to say, and to put your seal on it, that every one of those horses and the colts they have been raising for the last twenty years throughout the United States, are all mongrels and cross-breeds.

I don't believe this committee will report to the Board recommending any such an object or purpose. It is not fair, it is not just, it is not such as would become men who ought not to discriminate among horses, whether owned by one class of the citizens of your state or another, whether from Iowa or any other of the United States. And I don't believe this Board will, by its verdict on this question, declare that Mr. Dillon, perhaps the man who first commenced this importation busi-

ness, has been selling to the people of the State of Illinois, nothing but mongrel and cross-breed horses. If you want to give the Percherons a separate ring do so, but you cannot approve the report of your committee in justice to us.

But a very peculiar thought has just struck me. If you will turn to the first volume of our stud-book, which was the first French Draft stud-book in America, you will find many horses imported by Mr. Dunham and Mr. Ellwood, recorded in that book. And it must have taken them a great many years to wake up to the fact that there was one little country in France that had the only pure breed horses there were in the Republic.

I apologize again for occupying so much of your time. There are Captain Brown and several others here, who may perhaps have suggestions to make; and I would like to hear from Captain Brown, as he has just come from France.

Remarks of Capt. W. H. Jordan.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY NATIONAL FRENCH
DRAFT HORSE ASSOCIATION TO MEET ILLINOIS STATE BOARD
OF AGRICULTURE AND PRESENT THE VIEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION
RELATIVE TO THE QUESTION OF CLASSIFICATION OF
FRENCH DRAFT HORSES.

MR. PRESIDENT:

My appointment on a committee to discuss before this Board questions relating to the interest of the French Draft Horse breeding in this country, seemed to me, at first thought, like a huge presumption, but when I called to mind that this honorable Board was not only the official manager of the State of Illinois, but of the National Stock Show as well, in which my state and all states are equally interested, it could not be otherwise than proper for any citizen to ask a hearing on a question so national in its character as the one that has brought me here.

I, therefore, beg your indulgence while I attempt the discussion of a matter which seems to have been, by labored and unreasonable processes, forced into a great national enterprise with the sole object of confusing legitimate channels of progress among the people, that it might be the more easily seized

upon and wielded as a monopoly in the interest of a few individuals of great wealth. And right here I beg to say that such are the surroundings and associations of this question with two or three individuals in this country, and their few associates in France, that it cannot be intelligently discussed without more or less personal allusions; but in doing so, I want it understood, once for all, that as regards the generally recognized manager in this Percheron business, for his energy and ability in pushing it, right or wrong, on the line he has marked out, I can have only respect, as I am ready to take off my hat to any man, rich or poor, that honorably transacts his business for all there is in it. But, "in the course of human events," when it occurs that a gigantic and determined monopoly is attempted by processes that will work harm and injustice to public and national enterprises, and even its guardianship threatened by the powerful influence of great wealth; then it becomes the duty of any citizen to call a halt, even if his abilities to command attention are limited to only an earnest protest. I stand before you today to enter on this question an emphatic and determined protest.

A state board of agriculture is created by the people, mainly to manage the machinery constituted for the education and encouragement of the masses in the improvement of live stock. Its duties are not always performed "on flowery beds of ease," but its highest position of usefulness can only be reached and recognized by strict impartiality, especially so now in these days of powerful wealth-created influence.

Its ability to stand squarely and honestly against the growing curse of wealthy monopolies will be now more closely watched and examined than ever before, and their individual and corporate standing gauged accordingly.

In stating the question at issue more fully it seems necessary to call attention very briefly to some of its disturbing elements causing this controversy. Commencing with the early importation of French and other draft horses, those coming from England were almost universally called, in this country, English Draft, although by that name they were never called or known in England, their native country. But there has been no confusing or hindering questions forced into the English horse importation business on account of the name. French horses were imported from a country speaking a strange language. Easily and naturally they took, in this country, the name of the department most familiar to English-

speaking people, that of Normandy, from whence they mostly came, and were called Normans.

Without an exception those gentlemen who have strained most over the name the last few years, during the early years of their importing called them Normans. I will not detain you upon this point farther than to refer you to the pages of the "National Live Stock Journal" for 1875, '76 and '77, where you will find the great importing firms of Dillon, Perry, Dunham, Virgin and others calling them by the handy name of Normans, the same as did Mr. Sanders who has since, by becoming the paid editor and publisher of the Percheron stud-book, been looked upon as an intensely biased partisan fully committed to the interest of this attempted monopoly.

I think about 1876 the Percheron horse breeder became so impressed with the dangerous effects of the name Norman on this grand breed of horses, that were so valued in this country, that he quietly managed in his own way to have it changed by attaching the French name Percheron, making it Norman-Percheron, Frenchie you know.

But most of the old importers who had at the beginning gone with him into the Norman association, organized early in 1876, and had given Mr. Sanders the job of getting out the Norman stud-book, kicked at this "highflutin'" nonsense and would none of it. Grieved in spirit, a gentleman is supposed to have said: "Brother Sanders, you are quick and brilliant with the pen, and I am long-headed and can command money and we will lay too and have a stud-book of our own." And the Percheron-Norman or Norman-Percheron book was brought out. The people cared but little what these horses were called, and the sensation of the Percheron-Norman book was only a little one. As an advertising scheme it may or may not have paid; at any rate it was not satisfactory to the company that brought it out, and the enterprising firm in a year or two struck an attitude, and another sensation was attempted. it being nothing less in importance than the dropping of the Norman part of the name. Now these gentlemen had flopped in rapid succession from Norman, a handy name, to Norman-Percheron, a French name, and now with another jump they brought up with the full French name, Percheron. But, like the other named schemes, in a year or more this last cooled down; in fact the name business seemed played out and something else must be put in train for a sensation. A fertile brain was equal to the task, and the bold scheme of transferring oper-

ations to France was arranged for. In this far away country, speaking a differen language, matters could be kept more in hand. The energetic gentlemen sailed for France, and lo! the first stud-bod of draft horses ever made on French soil was brought forth.

It looked like a good stroke of business; it was five thousand miles away and in a strange country; its name was enormous, grand; not one in fifty of us fellows dared tackle it; but still they were not happy, wern't these American stud-book makers in France. People on this side asked ugly and insinuating questions as to how its long extended pedigrees had been found, especially in a country where no scrap of a register of draft horses had ever been kept; and mean stories were told as to the manner of gathering these long pedigrees, and we simple minded English speaking people would not be persuaded that in the French language no register was needed to develop extended pedigrees, and where especially the draft colt was foaled in one district, raised to two or three years old in another, and finally stud-booked and pedigreed for American buyers in a third.

But after all this manœuvre for the chief corner of the French horse importing business was not as successful as had been hoped for by these gentlemen. The outlook was really discouraging. The common people of this country were just beginning to feel at this time the crushing grasp of wealthy monopolies in other lines of their industries; they thought they saw signs of an attempted monopoly of the French horse business in America. They were rapidly being posted as to this Percheron extended pedigree business even in that far off country, and without doubt would soon unceremoniously kick the bottom out. So another scheme was matured and put forth by these lively gentlemen, founded on nothing else than the attempt at a complete abandonment of all this Percheron name business from the beginning.

The scheme is found in a circular issued March 24, 1885, less than three years ago, where the gentleman heading this enterprise put himself squarely on record as to the breeding of all stallions and mares imported from France up to that date, and proposed to class them all as one breed and eligible to the same stud-book record. The following is the circular:

"SPRINGFIELD, ILL., March 24, 1885.

"TO BREEDERS AND IMPORTERS OF FRENCH DRAFT HORSES:

"The undersigned individually desire to call the attention

of the breeders and importers of horses imported from France to the great importance of unity of effort on the part of all interested in increasing the popularity and future demand for such horses.

"There is no question but what the interests of breeders and importers of draft horses imported from France can be more effectually secured and the value of such horses greatly increased by harmonious action on the part of the members composing the organizations known as the National Norman Horse Association and the American Percheron Horse Breeders' Association.

"The future interests of all engaged in breeding French draft horses makes it necessary that the most earnest efforts be made to sustain and increase the prestige of the French draft horse in America by merging the two organizations into one, and thus concentrate the efforts of all engaged in breeding and importing this breed of horses.

"It is the earnest desire of the undersigned to harmonize these conflicting interests and to call the attention of all interested to the importance and necessity of consolidating the existing organizations, which have but one object, that of preserving the pedigrees of imported and home bred French draft horses.

"All who favor the consolidation upon the following or similar terms of the two existing American stud-books for French Draft Horses, are requested to communicate their views to Colonel Charles F. Mills, Secretary State Board of Agriculture, Springfield, Ill., viz. :

1st. The recognition in future volumes of the American Stud-Book for French Draft Horses of all the stallions and mares imported from France up to date of consolidation, and their descendants.

"2d. Stallions and mares hereafter imported from France that are recorded in either of the existing Percheron, Boulonnais and Norman stud-books of France, which stud-books only be recognized in future.

"3d. That the proposed new stud-book be known as the American Stud-Book for French Draft Horses.

"4th. That authentic extended pedigrees of stallions and mares hereafter imported be required, so far, at least, as the name of sire and dam and breeder is concerned.

"5th. That the proposed new organization be incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois, and that no change in

name or purpose can be made except by two-thirds vote of the stockholders.

"If a majority of the breeders and importers of French Draft Horses, members of the National Norman Horse Association and the American Percheron Horse Dealers' Association favor the proposed consolidation, the undersigned will call a meeting of representatives of these organizations at some convenient point for the completion of this important business arrangement, which will save annually many thousands of dollars now required to sustain the two separate organizations and publish duplicate stud-books.

"JOHN VIRGIN,
 "ISAIAH DILLON,
 "M. W. DUNHAM,
 "S. NOBLE KING."

For the purpose of bringing still more fully before you, by reliable and impartial testimony, the question as to there being two or more breeds of heavy horses imported from France, I sent out, the first of last December, some fifty circulars with prepaid envelopes for return. These circulars were sent alike to all whose names I could get from the papers at hand, advertising them as importers of French horses, by whatever name they called them. The source of this evidence is from those who have invested a large amount of capital in these horses of different called names, which means that they have given all sides of any question relating to their value, the most careful examination.

They are buyers and sellers, and can buy and sell one named horse as well as another, and most of them do; and in many cases are large breeders of the different named horses, and some are natives of France, having spent their early manhood in the home of the French Draft horse.

Never before has this question been submitted in a way, and to those so well prepared to decide it fairly, honestly and intelligently on its merits. This evidence comes from our own citizens, not sellers of these horses in France, intent only on booming a lively corner in this great trade with our countrymen, who have examined these horses standing side by side, with all the critical care inspired by their invested capital. They have followed them in their growth from the foal to the matured horse, on our own soil; and watched with equal interest the results of their offspring growing up before their eyes, developing the same grand horse in every particular. Nor in any

way were they bound, or threatened, or prejudiced by any clique holding over them mortgages or notes for a purchased stallion. This class and weight of evidence would establish any question in any court of law in the world, and cannot be set aside, it seems to me, without a violation of the plainest principles of evidence.

The following are the questions and answers:

IOWA CITY, December 1, 1887.

DEAR SIR:

The following questions are respectfully submitted to you and some fifty other importers of French horses, of that class weighing at maturity, 1,600 to 2,000 pounds:

1st. Can any essential difference in blood, be likely to exist in such a race of heavy horses, bred in the same territory, with no visible difference in formation, color or action?

2d. Is there any other than one common strain of blood, that produces horses of the above weight in France? If yes, name them, and three points, such as color, markings, and build, peculiar to one and not the other?

3d. Are most of the sires of heavy horses in France, owned by, and under the government control? Does the government usually buy these sires in any particular locality? Is a stud-book record demanded for these sires by the government, before they can be put to service?

4th. Are horses of the above weight, now being imported, pure draft bred? If not, name the breed in France producing such weight by which they are degraded.

Will you be so kind as to answer the above on this sheet by return mail, or allow the failure of a prompt reply to be construed as answering NO to the second question. Very truly,

W. H. JORDAN,

Iowa City, Iowa.

Number of importers addressed, 51; number of answers received, 37; number answering no to question two, 25; number answering yes to question two, 5; number not prepared to answer for lack of knowledge, 7; no replies to date received from, 14; number answering no by default, 14.

I submit this test vote on the question of different breeds of the horses in question, as positively fair. All shades of interest and opinion had an equal chance to express their views by a simple yes or no. The names of importers addressed, and those answering, are at your disposal for examination, that you may see for yourselves that a fair chance was given to all.

I beg to suggest, gentlemen of the Board, if you desire further information in your deliberations, as to the injustice or justice all around, of paying two premiums on the same breed of horses, that you call on your honorable President who has had large experience the past summer among Percheron horses and men of France, to aid you by pointing out himself, one single prominent characteristic of the so-called Percheron, not formed alike in all other 1,600 to 1,800 pound draft horses imported from France, by which they can be distinguished. And I beg further to suggest, that until that point can be named by you to those having endowed you with this public trust, in what way can you find just cause for making two classes ?

The State Board of Iowa, controlling one of the greatest state fairs in this country, in one of the greatest stock states of the nation, had a brief but decisive experience with the Percheron business. It came up and was urged upon them at the annual meeting of 1886. The Board being very much occupied in arranging the new fair grounds at Des Moines, gave the matter very little attention, and voted unanimously to make the Percheron class. At the State Fair in the autumn of 1886, when they saw in the ring, the so-called Percheron and other French Drafts, standing side by side, with their half-blood get, they were impressed with an evident wholesome truth in regard to there being but one race, and their hasty action at their last annual meeting in making two classes of the same breed. Consequently, at their next meeting, in January, 1887, the Percheron separate class was bounced by a more than unanimous vote. It was positive and final ; and hereafter all French Draft horses must face each other in the show yards of the Iowa State Fair. But if anything further was needed to settle this question of allowing these so-called Percherons a class, where they would not have to compete with other French Draft horses, it was at the Iowa State Fair last autumn, when side by side they faced the music, and showed their grandeur and courage, sometimes winning and sometimes losing the grand prizes. This was fair, honest competition, and not one of the ten thousand honest, sturdy, Iowa horsemen that stood around that ring, could see, or be made to believe they were other than one race of pure bred horses—bred and interbred to the highest state of perfection. It settled the Percheron business in Iowa.

But admitting these horses are one breed, a fact never denied by any one in France or this country, until within a year or two, why not encourage their production in this country by

making two classes as demanded by these Percheron gentlemen? This is a question sometimes asked. I answer by saying: I have briefly detailed the desperate and costly efforts made by two or three wealthy gentlemen, by hook or crook, to get this great enterprise of the people in shape whereby it could be seized upon and controlled. Hence in making a class for an imaginary few, only distinguished by a name, claimed and declared by the clique as the only horses eligible to record as pure bred, as against nine-tenths of the same race now in the hands of the people, many of whom were sold by these same gentleman, and who still hold notes and mortgages for them—to the extent of your official influence you join with these parties in striking a blow at this great public industry, and aid in a well-defined and desperate monopoly.

Remarks of J. W. Craft.

FIFTEEN YEARS A BREEDER OF DRAFT HORSES FROM FRANCE
WITHOUT SEEING ANY DIFFERENCE IN BLOOD OR BREEDING.

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE STATE
BOARD OF AGRICULTURE:

I appear before you today as a breeder of French Draft horses, and for the purpose of advocating the interests of the same. I understand you have been called upon to make a class for the so-called Percheron horse, based upon the claim that he is a separate and distinct breed of the Draft horse as produced in France.

I have been engaged in breeding Draft horses for the past fifteen years, and have made it a constant study, and have sought information from every source from which it was to be obtained.

Nowhere in French literature as translator, can I find anything pertaining to the equine race that for a moment leads me to believe this Percheron claim to be worthy of any consideration whatever. I have been intimately acquainted with a score or more of the most prominent and reliable importers of this class of horses that this country has ever known, and for many years, and in every instance, until recently, do I find them to agree perfectly as to the system of breeding as carried on in France, and to establish in my mind the fact that they are one

and the same breed of horses, no matter by what local name they may have been called in France.

Some French historians have designated the Boulonnais, the Breton, the Nivernais, the Percheron, each as a race of horses. I claim that the word race, as used in this connection and as known and understood in the English language, is a misnomer, and, if anything in its stead should be used, the word family.

Let us for a moment look at the situation and see what we can find to bear us out in the assertion. In the first place we find that the Boulonnais horse is used as a sire in different localities from that from which he derives his name. We also find this to be true of the Breton horse, the Nivernais horse and the Percheron horse. In fact, in France we find a constant migration of horses from one locality to that of another that produce this class of draft horses. In every instance selecting animals of the greatest excellence, no matter in what district they may have been bred and raised nor in what district it may be desired to use them as reproducers.

With this system of breeding having been carried on in France for hundreds of years, I most certainly fail to see how it would be possible to produce a separate and distinct breed or even race of horses.

I have on my farms twenty-five head of imported and full blood French Draft animals. They are recorded in the different local stud-books of France. They all have the same general appearance and characteristics of the French Draft breed, and I would defy the most expert breeder or importer of this class of horses to tell any difference in blood lines.

It will be seen by this that with the breeding of draft horses in France, so it is with breeding Short-horn cattle in this country. Here we have our different families of Short-horns, the Bates and Booth, the Abe Renicks, the Louans, the Duchesses, the Nelly Blys, etc., etc.

It certainly seems to me that it would be both absurd and ridiculous for any one to advocate the idea that a separate and distinct breed of cattle could be produced by crossing and commingling the blood of those different families.

The breeders of French Draft horses in this country have been educated up to take this view of the situation, and rightly so, by both importers and editors of live stock journals.

Recently a few importers sought to spring on the people a new breed of French horses, called Percherons. In doing so

they turn as it were a complete back action somersault, and land on the opposite side of the fence from where they formerly stood, and now say to their former patrons and the people at large, we have not got the same kind of a horse that we've been selling to you, we have now got Percherons with extended pedigrees. The fact is clearly established that this Percheron horse originates from a system of pedigree making rather than that of any direct breeding.

The interests of the importers in this matter are insignificant as compared with that of their patrons and the breeders of this class of stock. Any importer, buying and selling to the general public, can easily change from what he has to something more popular even if they are the same breed. But not so with the breeder, who has acted upon the advice of importers, who were acquainted with the facts here mentioned and facts undisputed by any record in France prior to 1885. I would like to know if it took those gentlemen twenty years constant buying of horses in the one locality in France to find out that there was a separate and distinct breed of horses right there called Percherons.

Now, let us look at this claim sought to be established for the so-called Percheron horse. Within the geographical lines, as recently made of this district in France that is said to be producing this Percheron horse in his purity, etc., etc., we cannot find that any system of breeding has been carried on other than that heretofore mentioned. But in its stead we here find some of the largest dealers for supplying the American trade to be found in France. Those dealers buy colts in the different localities in France that have been breeding this class of horses in their purity for many hundreds of years, and take them into this district to be fed, fitted up and Percheronized if necessary for the American trade. A great many of these colts have been bought by importers of French Draft horses, and, until recently, if they wanted a Percheron pedigree for him all they had to do was to say how they wanted it made. This created in the minds of these importers a suspicion as to their reliability and value. Thus it may be seen how a horse from other localities could be made a Percheron and an extended pedigree obtained for him. I do not wish it understood that I desire to reflect other than credit upon any one engaged in importing or breeding this class of horses, nor that I do not favor the establishing of blood lines for the different breeds of live stock in their purity. Neither do I want it understood that I look with disfavor

upon the establishment of accurate and reliable records and pedigrees for the different pure breeds of live stock. It is a necessity for the protection of the people against imposition, and also a protection for the importer and breeder of pure bred stock against those that are not. But in order to establish reliable and accurate records and pedigrees for our stock, we must not, as it were, undermine the foundation of the structure upon which we desire to build, or it will most surely be overthrown and some one crushed in the fall.

Should you, at this meeting or any future one, draw a line dividing this breed of French horses, you not only depreciate the interest of all of the people engaged in breeding this class of stock, but you will antagonize people with whom you have never become personally acquainted, people who have never before been called before you to defend their interests, and people who never would know their interests were in jeopardy until it would be too late to offer a protest. Feeling that you are a set of men that want to do your duty toward the people you represent, we will await your decision and see whether you choose to yield to the interests of one or two American importers and one or two French horse dealers, that have chosen to call these horses Percherons, or whether you will stand by and sustain the stock breeding and agricultural interests of the people you represent.

A Plea in Behalf ^{of} the Breeders.

BY A BREEDER.

TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE ILLINOIS STATE
BOARD OF AGRICULTURE:

I was pleased to learn last spring, through our representative, Mr. Virgin, that you had assigned the work of investigating the question of the breeding of French Draft horses to a committee of your honorable body, and I know if thoroughly done from an unprejudiced stand-point, it will go far towards settling this now detrimental controversy to the breeding interests of the country.

If it should appear to you that at one time there was some difference in the breeding of those horses, which all admit, but as I believe, by constant changing to suit the demands of com-

merce, even before there was any American demand, when the advent of the railroads took the place of the stage coach, and popular opinion always keeps pace with the demand in that country as well as this, and you can readily see the change in this country to heavier horses. The same would of course exist there, and as they had no stud-book to guide them in breeding, they naturally look about to see how to breed what the new demand made a market for. Hence the crossing of the horses from one part with horses of another, with the view of increasing their size, would be no more than a sensible business thing to do, and just what we have been doing for years past. Why not suppose they would do the same? We know, and no man can be found that will deny the statement, that in the past twenty years the horses from France have been increased in size, owing I suppose, to the demand of home trade as well as the American trade. My object in calling your attention to this is that you may see why these horses should be crossed, as all history shows that the large families were found on the north and east parts of France, and the smaller farther south and east; but the country being small compared to ours—more like two or perhaps three of our counties—I think if your committee carefully looked up the breeding district they found such to be the facts. And I hope your committee that investigated this question, went back for many years to start their investigations, and followed it up to the present, giving the changes in size, form and color at different dates, and the reasons for such changes, if they should find them, as I am sure they did. They would not then have to depend on the evidence that they might at present get, owing to the rival interests involved which we fear, started in America and has with its contaminating influence, reached all parts of France.

As you know, evidence from any interested party must be taken with some allowance. We admit this may be applied to the writer. It is my desire to call your attention to what I believe to be facts, and then the best results growing out of these facts; and to do this we will for a moment grant that there is now a slight difference in the blood of the horses coming to this country from France—and here allow me to say if you believe this is true, you must admit that it must be very slight. What would be the result on the breeding and breeders, if to accommodate some importers, without other good reasons, you make two or more classes? Your action could not be explained to all who read your list, and the fact that it contained two classes

would be evidence that you believed there was sufficient difference to justify you in making two. Your high standing and the fact that you have investigated this subject, would not justify you in my opinion, in making a class just to accommodate anyone, as I have been informed that some of your honorable body have excused themselves for doing so in the past. For many years before a stud-book was started in France, we bought the best horses and mares imported, and was it ever claimed by any man that the need of a stud-book was because of the difference in the breeding of the horses imported? I think this was never given as a reason; but when the Percheron stud-book was started what did it do? Recorded all the horses it could get the proper data for in this country, and in many cases against the wish of the owner or importer, and regardless of what part of France they came, and in France all the draft horses inside of certain imaginary lines, paying no attention to blood. Now what must be the consequence? To start with, if only those from a certain place in France are Percherons, the Percheron stud-book started out by making mongrels or grades, if a cross between draft horses from one part of France, with those from another, would make mongrels or grades—as it is now claimed. Now allow me to ask, if that is true, when can this evil be remedied? We say never; as at the time the Percheron book started, we had then in Illinois, over one thousand stallions and many mares bought on account of individual merit, by the importers, and sold to the breeders the same, and not because they came from Perche, or Boulonnais, or Ardennes, or Normandy. Now admitting for the sake of argument, that if any there was only a slight difference in the blood of horses imported, that difference you must admit, is so small, that not one of your honorable body could see it in the animal or his breeding then or now.

Now, what would seem to me to be the best thing to do under such circumstances, would be to consider how you can do the most good to the greatest number of people, not considering the interests of the importer of more importance than the humble farmer and breeder, as we have hundreds of them to one importer. We have paid our money for the best specimens of horses and mares imported by these men, and they all told us the same story until a short time ago, that they were all pure bred and all alike in breeding, and I believe if anybody should suffer it should be them and not us. But I hope the light of truth on this subject will not hurt them. As competition in-

creased they sought to better their condition, not particularly by hurting their patrons or the stock they had imported, but to enable them to compete more profitably with those in the same business. A French stud-book was started. We do not care to enter in the fight between importers, and can not expect them to give us relief. Hence we look to you as a body of men who have the interests of all the people at heart, and especially the breeders. What would be the result if it could be proven that there were two or more breeds of draft horses in France? And if there is more than one there must be several. I ask what would be the result on the breeders?

To illustrate: I have bought and used on my own farm, for the improvement of my stock, several stallions during the past ten years, hoping at a near date to breed horses as good in form as well as blood as those being imported. But I now find one was bought in one part of France and one in another. By crossing the offspring of the first horse with the second, having high grade mares to start with, I now have several bred up till they have the required five top crosses that make them eligible to registry. But what do I find after all my years of careful breeding? That I have used horses that were not of the same blood. (According to the story now told by some of our importers.) If it took them ten or fifteen years to find this out they are duller than I supposed, and from what you must know of them, I doubt if you could believe they are so dull as that. But what is the result? I have crossed and recrossed until I have horses of 15-16 blood and higher, ready, and as I supposed eligible, under the stud-book rules, for registry. And lo!—they are but grades and mongrels. My time and money spent for naught. And my case is only that of thousands all over this country, the breeders in all cases being the sufferers. I, with many others, have been raising young stallions—high-grades, as we supposed, and selling them on our word that they were bred so and so. Now I believe a man that sells an animal for breeding purposes and misrepresents his breeding, is liable for damages. Will your decision subject us to this disgrace and damage?

I know men who have bought horses of one importer and mares of another, buying them before the advent of a French stud-book, on the honor of the importers. And here allow me to say, I believe that as a class there is not a more honorable set of men in any business than they are. And I am glad to know that those among them who at present claim a difference

in the breeding of those animals form a small per cent. of a small minority; and we are inclined to think that some of these are governed more by the others than from an individual investigation of the facts. These breeders now find, if there are two or more breeds in France, they have been losing their time and money in breeding cross-bred horses. I need only to call your attention to this, as you will readily see that what has been my experience and come under my observation is only a sample of what may be found all over this and other states; and if, after investigating their breeding, you should have any doubt on the subject, I think that you should give the benefit of the doubt to the breeders. Not that I wish the importer any harm, but if you should decide from the investigations that there is at the present but one breed of draft horses in France, it will only confirm the views of a larger per cent. of the importers, and could not do more than place the rest on an equal footing, and let individual merit of men and animals be the test of competition in business, and not give protection to one over the other to the detriment of the many.

Believing you will decide this question in the interests of justice and fairness, and in the interests of breeders, who can not, like the importers, change to some other breed in a day, but must plod on for years to establish a reputation as a breeder, even when commencing with the best. And what assurance have we that even next year some enterprising American may not start one or even two or three more "stud-books in France." For I am led to believe that all he need to do to get support and assistance to start a local book is to insure the Frenchmen that it will pay.

In conclusion, allow me to say that I think the rules adopted by the Agricultural Society of France, relative to admission in their stud-book, and relative to what constitutes a breed, should be sufficient guarantee and good authority to be governed by in this country, and would, in my judgment, make a good rule to head the French draft horse class in your premium list, as we believe, like the French Agricultural Society, who make no separate classes for its different families of draft horses but believe that the best results are obtained by showing them together. These rules, we think, would do justice to all and harm to none, and read as follows:

Rule I—None to be recognized as draft stock and admitted as such to record in the pedigree book; open to this category of the equine race, under the patronage of the Council of Administration of the society of French Agriculturists; except stallions, mares and

products born in France from ancestors of the two sexes in the origin whereof there shall not have been discovered any trace of union with animals of another sort, with any progenitor whatever of other blood.

Rule II—None to be denominated half-breeds or crosses which are animals springing from alliances between progenitors appertaining to any one of the equine families primitively constituted in distinct tribes in Bretagne, in Le Perche, in Le Boulonnais, in our Ardennes, or in any other of our tribes of large horses.*

Yours,

W. D. STRAWN,
RISK, ILLINOIS.

The Branding-Iron Breed

(FROM IOWA HOMESTEAD OF DECEMBER 20, 1887.)

We have not as yet taken an active part in the wrangle between the importers of French draft horses as to whether there is one breed or several breeds. Some time last fall we offered a suggestion on the subject which the "Gazette" criticizes, or rather its quotation by several papers. The HOMESTEAD has no interest in this matter beyond the desire to ascertain facts that our readers should know. It has never taken a stud-book to raise, nor championed any breeder or class of breeders. What investigation we have been able to make without a personal visit to France has led us to conclusions so diametrically opposite to those of the "Breeders' Gazette" that we suppose that we shall be regarded by that eminent authority as either "ignorant or dishonest." Epithets of this character have little

* This disposition has been criticised; a Boulonnais stallion and an Ardennes mare—a Percheron stallion and a Bretagne mare, do not give, they say, either a Boulonnais or Ardennais, or Percheron or Bretagne, but a half-breed of these races.

We answer: Draft animals and not other. These different progenitors can not give, and, in fact, do not give, anything but draft horses, without the mixture of other blood.

In the reproduction of races known to be of pure blood, the products born here or there, in countries sometimes far removed from each other, from the alliance of animals of the same sort, have never heretofore been considered cross products. An Irish stallion and an English mare, both inscribed among the nobility of the species, produce pure blood like themselves. It is the same with any stallions whatever, of pure blood, united to brood mares of their race, no matter where they are born, be it on the Continent or in America. Married among themselves, reproducers of pure blood, wherever they are, produce neither half-bloods nor crosses.

The premises and conclusions are the same in both cases.

terror to us. It is the easiest thing in the world to use that kind of argument. We are quite well accustomed—seasoned, as it were, to that kind of warfare.

If gentlemen whom we regard as truthful on all other questions, are not utterly untruthful when they talk about French draft horses there is but one conclusion, namely, that the Frenchman regards pedigree as a mere matter of form, and is willing to accommodate the American buyer with almost anything he wants; Percheron, Boulonnais, Nivernais or anything else.

For proof of this we do not need to rely upon the statements of importers of horses not registered in the Percheron stud-book. We have only to turn to the proceedings of the last meeting of the American Percheron Association, held last month in Chicago, and quote the following:

“RESOLVED, That the Societe Hippique Percheronne of France be urged to adopt stringent measures in order to put a stop to the frauds being committed by changing of certificates by Parisian dealers and that it is the sense of this meeting that the most practical plan is for the Societe Hippique Percheronne to appoint an expert whose duty it shall be to examine each animal presented for registry, and that the stud-book number of such animal be promptly branded upon it.”

The Societe Hippique Percheronne of France is the French Percheron Society, established a few years ago, through the influence of Mr. Sanders of the “Breeder’s Gazette” and others, and thus we have the American or parent association recognizing the fact, so frequently asserted by other importers, that the dealers make pedigrees to suit fancy of purchasers.

But altogether the funniest thing about this resolution is that it should be necessary that an “expert” should examine these horses, and then to be sure about it, that “the stud-book number should be prominently branded upon them.”

Think of the Short-horn Association, or the Hereford or Polled Angus or Jersey, requiring that an expert be employed to distinguish the breeds, and the name be branded upon the Polled Angus to keep some fool from mistaking it for a Jersey! And yet the “Gazette” tells us that the men who don’t know that there are distinct breeds in France and the Percheron the best by all odds, are either “ignorant or dishonest.”

To talk about different breeds that require an expert to distinguish them, and then have to brand them to make sure of it, is simply drivel and nonsense, and not to the credit of the

"Breeder's Gazette." Who is to look after the expert to see that he does not brand more Percherons than ever saw Perche?

"The Question Settled."

(FROM IOWA HOMESTEAD OF JANUARY 13, 1888.)

Under this head the "Breeder's Gazette" has a summing up of the draft horse controversy which is exceedingly amusing, as showing the peculiar method of that paper in its efforts to humbug its readers. The position maintained by the "Gazette" has been that the Percheron is a breed of draft horses distinct from all others in France and greatly superior. As the draft horses imported from France have been so nearly alike that Americans have failed to distinguish them, and as certain breeders and the "Breeder's Gazette" have persistently claimed they were distinct breeds, the Illinois Board of Agriculture appointed its president, Mr. Dysart, to go to Europe and see whether the savons of France were more discerning than the Americans and could detect the difference.

Mr. Dysart submits the opinions of certain eminent French gentlemen, which the "Gazette" is publishing in detail, but before the evidence is all published it mounts the bench and pronounces the question settled. Let us look at the evidence. One part of it, that of M. Tisserand, we condensed last week, who pronounces the Boulonnais the "ideal draft horse," and says the Percheron had "more style and finish"; that the government uses both kinds of horses, "the Percherons in Percheron districts and the Boulonnais in Boulonnais districts." The "Gazette" then introduces the Marquis de Damphiere, President of the French Agricultural Society, to testify to the regulations of the Draft stud-book of France, recently established, from which it appears that this new stud-book is simply a reprint of the Percheron stud-book, three volumes, the Boulonnais and Nivernais stud-books, and the progeny of the crosses of these breeds—all as entitled to record.

This last feature proves conclusively that the French Agricultural Society regards these various breeds, so-called, as simply names of families of the same breed, and the crosses between these families as entitled to registry and therefore thoroughbred. We do not know how the French society could, more emphatically, have condemned the position of the "Breeder's Gazette" and other Percheron advocates.

The next witness is M. DuHays, editor of the French Thoroughbred Stud-Book. After stating that there is a variety of opinion in France as to whether there is one breed of draft horses or several, he gives his own opinion that the Percheron is far the best, and advises Americans to select some spot as near like Perche as possible, and by selection and in-breeding, develop a fixed type. He warns against crossing it with the English thoroughbred, if they wish to obtain more style and finish, but advises the Arab cross, from which horse he says the Percheron is descended, as "conclusively proved by historical documents." But altogether the funny part of Mr. Hays' statement is that the Percherons about Nogent-le-Rotrou from which Percherons have been most generally obtained, are inferior to the Percherons about Montagne in the department of Arne! M. Hays' contribution to the settlement of the question seems to us to unsettle it very decidedly.

The next witness introduced by the "Gazette" is Professor Sanson, whose specialty is Zoology and Zootechny, who says the Percheron has been the stage and diligence horse, and that "fast steppers are common in this race," and after referring to the tradition that it is of oriental origin, proceeds to argue that it is a native of France, and that it has existed in the same place, not only through all history, but back through all the ages, and through the present geologic period to that remote past whose history is found only in the rocks, and tells of a skull which some workmen dug up in the valley of the Seine in 1868, which although broken to pieces by the workmen, was put together again by Prof. Sanson himself, who has established its "complete identity" with the Percheron of today. "From this fact," says the Professor, "we are authorized to conclude that the breed known as Percheron has had its origin in the Parisian valley of the Seine, and this is why we give to this type the scientific name of Segauinius, from the name given to the river during the Gallo-Roman epoch." This is the only type that had its birthplace in the country at present called "France." All the other types, we are told, are of "Asiatic, Eastern or African origin." Verily, here is richness indeed; especially when we consider that this breed of horses, which is proved by the skull dug up "in the valley of the Seine," to have been millions of years old when Cain and Abel were babies, has now to be branded to distinguish it from the Boulonnais! Verily, Bro. Sanders, the question is settled now by these two witnesses, one of which claims that the Percheron is an Oriental breed, prob-

ably descended from Job's war horse, that snorted and "pawed up the valley" and "scented the battle afar off," and the other that it is French, and the only French breed that has stuck to France amid "the wreck of matter and crash of worlds" that marked the transition from one geological age to another. However, having waded through his demonstration of the identity of the pre-Adamite horse with the Percheron, we thank this professor of Zcology and Zootechny for one statement of fact which emphatically unsettles Bro. Sanders' "settled question." After telling us that the colts of LaPerche are raised in the neighborhood of Montagne, Betteme, and other towns, and "are taken to the plain Chartres to grow up," he says:

"The plain of Chartres is also supplied with colts belonging to other races. When these colts arrive at a certain age they are sold to the trade. * * * The light work which these colts have to do when young is the chief factor in the merits of the horses brought up in this district.

* * * * *

"If, therefore, we meet in trade under the name Percheron, horses belonging to other breeds, it is not because the breeders of Perche raise these other breeds. It is long since their own production of colts sufficed to meet the demands of the farmers of Beauce, who undertake to raise them from the age of eighteen months, because with the increased trade the demand has increased far in excess of the supply. The Paris dealers and their agents incessantly run over the whole country of Beauce, paying big prices for all the horses they can get. In order to satisfy these constant demands the farmers have been obliged to have recourse to other sources. In that way was established the custom of introducing into Beauce colts bought in Poitou, on the coast of Brittany, Picardy and Boulogne. The colts being gray (as are most of the Percherons) and fed in the same way, acquire under the influences of food and work some of the qualities of the pure bred, and are sold under the name of Percheron. * * * This fact has great practical importance because it shows the essential part played by education in developing aptitudes, since all the horses of various origin coming into Beauce are sold as Percherons. So far as they are needed to draw and carry, their work is performed satisfactorily. But should you desire to select a stallion from the herd of Beauce you would expose yourself to most serious disappointments, unless you bear in mind the particular characteristics be-

longing to the Percherons, which are especially prevalent in the variety of small Percherons."

The Professor has not been properly coached, as in this he lets the cat out of the bag and says that Perche, not having Percherons enough, draws indiscriminately on the draft horses of France and calls them Percherons. No wonder an expert is needed to tell them apart and the branding iron to distinguish them. We are greatly obliged to the "Breeder's Gazette" for giving us this evidence, which does indeed settle the question, although in an altogether different way from what the "Gazette" would have its readers believe. The "Gazette" proves by one witness that the Percheron is a cross between the Arab and the French draft, and by another that it was an ancient French breed millions of years before Cain killed Abel, and by the same witness that all other breeds are bought, raised and sold as Percherons, and by feed and care become like Percherons.

We are sorry to see the "Gazette" resort to this trick—common enough among political papers—of perverting its own testimony in the hope that its readers will take the editorial opinion in preference to the testimony itself.

Why have we Two Stud Books for French Draft Horses?

W. M. SPRINGER, PRESIDENT NATIONAL FRENCH DRAFT HORSE ASSOCIATION, OSKALOOSA, IOWA.

DEAR SIR: Having been informed that the printing committee contemplate publishing the evidence relative to the French Draft question that was presented before the Illinois State Board of Agriculture, it occurred to me that as twelve years have passed since the first meeting of importers for the purpose of starting a stud-book in this country, it might be of interest to some of the readers of this report to know how and why we have two stud-books for French Draft horses. As I have attended every meeting from first to last, I beg leave to make this explanation, which I will do as briefly as I can, leaving out many of the minor details and ups and downs of this society since its first meeting in 1876.

At that meeting all was harmony; no discord, no objection to name, no talk about a distinct breed, no demand for separate classes for the horses from one particular part of France; but

that the different families of draft horses in France were one and the same breed, and the society so expressed itself in a resolution. And at this same meeting there was another resolution passed, which at the time seemed to be as unanimous as the first, and that was that the secretary should procure a copyright for a National Norman Stud-Book, and that the copyright should be the property of the association. Now it is not often difficult to understand results if we can see and know the cause.

At this meeting Mr. J. H. Sanders was elected Secretary, and instructed, among other things, to procure a copyright for the stud-book as above stated.

Now let us see what he did. Instead of procuring the copyright for a Norman stud-book, as he was instructed, he procured it for a Percheron-Norman stud-book. Instead of getting a copyright in the name of the association as instructed, he got it in his own name, as you will see by first volume Percheron-Norman Stud-Book.

Now right here is the cause of there being two stud-books in this country for draft horses from France, as well as all this talk about two classes and several different breeds. I believe all the importers, with one exception, that attended the first meeting, were opposed to J. H. Sanders or any other man owning and controlling the copyright of the Norman stud-book. No particular objections were made to the addition of the Percheron name that he added, but on account of this copyright, and this alone, all the trouble arose. Another copyright was procured in the name of National Norman Horse Association—Sanders owning and controlling and publishing the Percheron-Norman Stud-Book, and the National Norman Horse Association owning and controlling and publishing their book. Now some may ask why Mr. Sanders did this, and why he added Percheron to the Norman? I suppose he could answer the first. He attempted to answer the latter in the revised edition of the Percheron-Norman Stud-Book, and I think any man reading that attempt, must come to the conclusion that Mr. Sanders was either mistaken then or now. Some people are mean enough to intimate that a certain black horse registered on page 115, first volume of Percheron-Norman Stud-Book had something to do with it, but I don't know that he had. His name, "Tempest," suggests the condition the importers were in when they found this out. The tempest in the minds of the importers continues. If the "Tempest" Mr. Sanders bought of Mr. Dunham, has been as successful in his line as Mr. San-

ders has been in keeping up the tempest with the importers, he has reason to thank Mr. Dunham for importing one good grade at least, as he could not be more than half Percheron, the other half being Norman.

Now, who would suppose that a little thing like this would start two stud-books in America, two or more in France, and establish a pure and distinct breed of horses never before heard of? Cause great states like Illinois and Iowa to recognize this breed by making separate classes for it (am glad to know Iowa takes it all back.) Cause men to cross the Atlantic, commissioned by the governors of several states. Have the honored professors of geology of France dig deep in the bowels of mother earth to find the broken bones of a horse's head, to help establish the fact of a breed, and cause some honest, industrious peasant farmers and a couple of horse dealers to leave their professions and meet this same J. H. Sanders away down in an out of the way town in the interior of France for the purpose of starting a Percheron stud-book. I imagine I see the eyes of those peasants open wider and wider as this great man from America tells them what they have lost, and how much they could gain if they would do as he dictates. Why! said he, did you know that you have one of the purest breeds of horses in the world? That from generations to generations you have been breeding them pure, and that you have kept them pure by never allowing a horse or a mare to come across the road from your neighbor's farm outside of this Canton of Perche. Now, all this and much more we know, and if you will lend us your names we will do the work and furnish the money, and make you a stud-book that will make you all rich. They consent, and were willing to swear it was all a lie about the wise men coming from the East.

You have seen the cause, now notice the effect. It requires five top crosses, all from full breed sires, to make a horse eligible to register in this country; but one single cross of the Atlantic by J. H. Sanders made thousands of horses eligible to entry in a Percheron stud-book in France, and gave them long and extended pedigrees in this country as well.

Another wise man is now wanted to devise some way that they can tell this breed without cruelly branding on his side "this is a Percheron."

Now, if somebody will appoint a committee, or some governor commission somebody to ascertain whether what I have said is true or not, and if their report is not in my favor, I will

agree to vote for a separate class for every different colored horse that comes from France, and I will positively assert that I believe they are each a pure and distinct breed. Yours,
JOHN VIRGIN.

This report is printed by authority of printing committee, as follows:

W. M. SPRINGER,
CAPT. W. H. JORDAN,
ELLIS DILLON,
C. E. STUBBS.

French Draft Horses.

Norman, Percheron-Norman, Percheron, and Norman-Percheron.

BY ZEDEKIAH WHOPEMUP,
Kalamazoo, Michigan.

The following interview is supposed to have taken place between a buyer and an importer of French Draft Horses. It contains more truth than poetry:

Zedakiah Whoopemup—Good morning, Mr. Fairplay; my name is Zedakiah Whoopemup. I am from Kalamazoo, and want to buy a French Draft Horse—a Pedigreed Percheron Stallion. Have you got anything of that kind in your stable?

Mr. Fairplay—Yes, sir; I have a number of horses that have Percheron Pedigrees, and a number that are recorded in the National Register of Norman Horses; some of them are pedigreed and some are not.

Zedakiah Whoopemup—I have been told that the Percherons were the best, and to not buy anything but a Pedigreed Percheron.

Mr. Fairplay—Well, sir; I have what you want. Go into the stable and make your selection and we will make a deal.

Z. W.—But how am I to know which are Percherons and which are Normans?

Mr. F.—Did not the parties who told you the Pedigreed Percherons were the best tell you how you might know when you found a genuine Percheron?

Z. W.—Well, no; I asked them that and they said that when I found a horse that was recorded in the Percheron Stud-Book he would do to buy; but be sure and make them give me a pedigree.

Mr. F.—I have got the horse that will do to buy, and a pedigree to go with him. Go into the stable and select the horse you want.

Z. W.—Well, Mr. Fairplay, after carefully examining your horses I have selected that blocky, short-legged, heavy-bodied, gray horse down in the far box-stall; he is the kind of a horse I want. What is your price on him?

Mr. F.—That horse is worth \$2,000; but you do not want him—he is not a Pedigreed Percheron. I call him a Norman horse. I

bred and raised that horse myself. I bought his sire and dam up in Normandy; they were two of the best animals I ever imported.

Z. W.—Have you no pedigree for them?

Mr. F.—No, sir; I imported them before they got to making paper pedigrees for draft horses in France. The man I bought them of in France said he bought them of a dealer who had been up in Boulogne and bought up a drove of horses and was taking them down into Perche to sell to the breeders there. He said he did not know anything about their pedigrees; said they did not keep any record of the breeding of their draft horses in France, and never had.

Z. W.—You say these animals are recorded in the National Register of Norman Horses?

Mr. F.—Yes, sir; they are. I have the certificates.

Z. W.—Then the horse I have selected is recorded and has a pedigree?

Mr. F.—Yes, sir; I can show you the sire and dam, and my sworn statement certifying that they are the sire and dam of that horse.

Z. W.—Why are they not recorded in the Percheron book?

Mr. F.—Simply because I did not choose to record them there.

Z. W.—You could have recorded them there if you had chose to do so, could you not?

Mr. F.—Yes, sir; I was solicited to do so.

Z. W.—If you had recorded them there they would have been Percherons, would they not?

Mr. F.—That is what they would have been.

Z. W.—And the horse I have selected would have been a Pedigreed Percheron, would he not?

Mr. F.—Yes, sir; that is what he would have been.

Z. W.—You knew the Old Louis Napoleon horse? I believe he was kept in this part of the country. I notice that he is recorded in the Percheron Stud-Book. I have heard a great deal of talk about what a wonderful horse he was, but I always heard him called a Norman horse. I suppose he was a pure-bred Percheron.

Mr. F.—Well, no sir; he was not a Percheron horse when he was imported. Old Louis Napoleon was bred and raised in Normandy, about twelve miles from the city of Havre. He was a Norman horse when he was imported, and for over twenty years after he arrived in this country he was called a Norman horse. Several years after he died the fellow that got up the Percheron Stud-Book wen to work and resurrected and resuscitated the old horse and discovered that he was a Percheron, and he recorded him in the Percheron Stud-Book. Ever since that he has been a Percheron. He was the best Percheron horse they ever had; he was the Moses that led them through the wilderness. They swear by Old Louis Napoleon yet.

Z. W.—I suppose you know the old St. Laurent horse; he was quite a noted breeder. I notice that he is recorded in the Percheron Stud-Book. I suppose he was a pure-bred Percheron?

Mr. F.—No, sir; he was not a Percheron horse when he was imported. St. Laurent was bought up in Normandy about fifteen miles from the old city of Rouen. The man who owned him there said he did not know anything about how he was bred; he said they did not keep any record of the breeding of their draft horses in France and paid no attention to pedigrees. He bought him of a man who was taking him down into the Percheron district. St. Laurent was a Norman horse when he was imported, and was always called a Norman horse in this country until they got him recorded in the Percheron Stud-Book. If the fellow who got up the Percheron

Stud-Book had not found out that St. Laurent and Old Louis Napoleon were Percherons, and recorded them in the Percheron Stud-Book, the people in this country would never have known but what they were Normans. The people were so ignorant that they did not know how ignorant they were.

Z. W.—I suppose that Success was probably the finest pure-bred Percheron that was ever imported to the United States?

Mr. F.—Yes, sir; J. H. Sanders says he was the finest specimen of the Percheron race that he ever saw.

Z. W.—I suppose he was bred and raised in the district of Perche?

Mr. F.—Mr. W. J. Edwards bought Success of a dealer in the city of Paris. The man he got him of did not know anything about how he was bred. He said they did not keep any record of their draft horses in France and paid no attention to the pedigrees. Mr. Edwards thought Success was a Norman horse. He sold him to M. W. Dunham and others, of Wayne, Du Page county, Ill., as a Norman horse. Mr. Dunham thought he was a Norman horse and stood him several seasons as a Norman horse.

Z. W.—How did Mr. Dunham find out that Success was a Percheron horse?

Mr. F.—I believe he had him at a fair, or some place, where one of those Percheron experts saw him and he discovered that Success was a pure-bred Percheron.

Z. W.—Why were these horses called Norman horses?

Mr. F.—Because they were bred and raised in Normandy, and were descendants from a race of draft horses that originated in Normandy. They were not only the progenitors of all French draft horses but were the fountain-head from which all the various breeds of the draft horses in the world have sprung.

Z. W.—How long have they been called Norman horses?

Mr. F.—Ever since the days of William the Conqueror. For over eight hundred years they have been called Norman horses by the people of every civilized nation in the world.

Z. W.—What historians have written of them as Norman horses?

Mr. F.—Mr. J. H. Walsh, a reliable English writer, says: The Norman horse has been celebrated for ages as the type of horse for the purpose of show and utility combined, with a fine upstanding forehead he unites a frame of the most massive proportions, and this is moulded in a form as elegant as is consistent with his enormous power. Their country woman, Rosa Bonheur, has made this variety of horses familiar to most of my readers, and I need not, therefore, trouble myself to describe them minutely. The true Norman horse is large, powerful, sufficiently active, and very hardy.

Z. W.—Then Rosa Bonheur's famous painting of the horse fair represents Norman horses? I have been told that it represented Percheron horses. Well, what more do they say about Norman horses?

Mr. F.—Youatt, a reliable English author, says: The best French horses are bred in Normandy and Limousin. The Norman carriers travel with a team of horses and from fourteen to twenty-two miles in a day, with a load of ninety hundred weight.

Z. W.—Well, that is business. What more do they say about Norman horses?

Mr. F.—Professor Sanson, a reliable French writer, speaking of these horses, says: They have a vigorous constitution, and in point of strength they are Hercules among horses. They are as gentle as they are strong, are renowned for their docility, and for so heavy animals are free and quick in their movements. They are

endowed with a vigor and energy which is reflected in their resolute but gentle glance. They have not their equal in the world.

Z. W.—That is good enough for me; but I want to know it all. What more do they say about Norman horses?

Mr. F.—A correspondent of the Albany Cultivator, writing from Paris in February, 1852, makes special mention of the animal he employed to convey him through the country, and calls him the stout Norman stallion. He says: The general character and appearance of the Norman horse is too well known to need any particular description. Strength and endurance are their distinguishing features, to which, surprising as it may seem, is generally joined docility.

Z. W.—Well, what more do our American writers say?

Mr. J. H. Sanders, the greatest Percheron historian the world has ever produced, says: The horses of Flanders were closely allied, if not identical, with the large horses that prevailed in Normandy. He says farther that it may safely be stated that to Normandy and Flanders the whole European and American continents are indebted for their various breeds of draft horses.

Z. W.—Well, that settles it; if you had quoted J. H. Sanders at first that would have been sufficient. The Percherons are descendants of the Normans. You have bought horses down in the Percheron district, have you not?

Mr. F.—Yes, sir; one of the best horses I ever imported I bought of a dealer in Perche.

Z. W.—Was he a Pedigreed Percheron horse?

Mr. F.—Well, yes; when I bought him he was. I saw the same horse up at Chartres and tried to buy him, but the fellow that owned him said he could not give me a pedigree for him; he said he did not know how he was bred. He said if those dealers down in Perche owned him they would have a pedigree for him. He sold the horse in a short time to a dealer down in Perche and I bought him of the dealer.

Z. W.—Did you get a pedigree with him?

Mr. F.—Oh, yes; a good one. It ran away back about a hundred years, to a horse they called Jean-le-Blanc. I think that was the name.

Z. W.—When was the first pure-bred Percheron stallion that you have any knowledge of imported to the United States.

Mr. F.—In 1873. The Dillons imported the first pure-bred Percheron that I ever saw. The man they bought him of said he did not know how he was bred; he said they did not keep any record of the breeding of their draft horses in France, and paid no attention to pedigrees.

Z. W.—Well, if they knew nothing about how he was bred, how did you know that he was a pure-bred Percheron?

Mr. F.—One of the Percheron experts, a man who presumes to know and write more about Percheron horses than any other man in the world, came over to Dillons' stable and saw the horse and discovered at once that he was a pure-bred Percheron.

Z. W.—What kind of a looking horse was he?

Mr. F.—He was a little dapple-gray horse, very narrow, contracted, light bone, and small, contracted feet. Dillon was asleep when he bought him in France, is how they come to get him.

Z. W.—What did the Dillons do with that horse?

Mr. F.—They sold him to the Percheron expert, the man who told them he was a Percheron.

Z. W.—Why did they not keep him and get some of his colts, then they would have had some pure-bred Percheron horses?

Mr. F.—Well, the Percheron fellow wanted the horse. He

would have been very much disappointed if he had not got him. He was a good friend of the Dillons and they wanted to oblige him, so they let him have the horse." They thought they could get along as well without the horse as that fellow could with him.

Z. W.—I understand that the district of Perche is the only place in France where they breed and raise pure Percheron horses. Is that district of Perche surrounded with a wall something like the Chinese wall?

Mr. F.—Oh, no; there is only a line of survey, just the same as divides one county from another in this country.

Z. W.—Well, what prevents the horses in Perche from crossing over into the surrounding departments and mixing with the horses there, and what prevents the horses in the surrounding departments from crossing over into Perche and mixing with the horses there? It seems strange that some of the breeders just across the line from Perche, have not, during the last hundred years, got to breeding some of those pure-bred Percheron horses.

Mr. F.—That does seem strange; I cannot understand that myself.

Z. W.—Was there any record kept of the breeding of French draft horses when you first went to France?

Mr. F.—No, sir; there was no record kept and never had been; there was no attention paid to pedigrees. They did not even have names for some of their horses.

Z. W.—How could they commence then and pedigree all their horses in the district of Perche, and trace their genealogy away back to the time of the Crusade wars without some record of their ancestors?

Mr. F.—Well, it is not a difficult matter to get names; the dictionary is full of them. And when you get names it is not a difficult matter to make pedigrees. It does not make any difference what the names are; it does just as well to call a horse Pete as it does to call him James Augustus Caesar, and it does just as well to call a mare Kate as it does to call her Laura Matilda. You must first get names. You could pedigree rats and have a dozen different breeds of them if you only had names for them. Of course rats are all the same the world over, only some are more rattier than others.

Z. W.—It seems to me there must be some way of telling which horses are Percherons and which are not, or the State Board of Agriculture would not have made two classes for them. How are they going to tell which are Percherons and which are not?

Mr. F.—The pedigrees will help them out. They will not let any one show a black horse if the pedigree calls for a gray horse; they won't do that.

Z. W.—Then the pedigrees are worth something?

Mr. F.—Oh, yes; the pedigree business works first-rate until they get more pedigrees than horses. Horses die, but pedigrees never die. When they get more pedigrees than horses I do not know what will be best to do, for almost every one who buys a pedigree will want a horse with it. I believe they are talking now of branding all the Percherons on the rump, or something like that, so they will know which are Percherons. I am afraid that will not give general satisfaction either, for the man who keeps the branding iron the longest will have the most Percherons.

Z. W.—Did you ever have any conversation with any of the members of the State Board of Agriculture about this Percheron business?

Mr. F.—Yes, sir; I have talked with a number of them. I had a talk with one of the leading members of the Board last fall. He said he could not see that there was any difference between the

French draft horses imported to this country; said he did not believe there was any difference, but he was in favor of giving the Percherons a separate class on account of the money there was represented in them.

Z. W.—Well, I cannot understand. If there is no difference how will the State Board determine which shall show as Percherons and which as French Draft?

Mr. F.—By the registers, of course. Those recorded in the Percheron Stud-Book will have to show as Percherons, and those recorded in the National Register as French Draft horses.

Z. W.—But I notice that many of the best horses that have been imported from France are recorded in both books. Where will they show?

Mr. F.—Well, it looks like they would have to show in both classes. I guess they are what they call double Percherons; I have heard of them. The State Board will probably make another class for them next winter.

Z. W.—I was talking with a gentleman who owns one of the stables here. He seems to be quite cranky on the Percheron Pedigree business.

Mr. F.—Oh, yes; he had a vision about four or five years ago and got transformed, or translated, or something like that. He pedigrees his cats now; he hankers after pedigrees worse than a possum after pawpaws. He registers now in everything that comes along. He came very near getting some of his horses recorded in the Short-Horn register last fall.

Z. W.—He did! How was that?

Mr. F.—Well, you see, he wanted to enter some of his horses for exhibition at the state fair, so he wrote down to Secretary Mills for some blank applications. Mr. Mills made a mistake and sent him some blank applications for registering in the Short-Horn Herd-Book. When they arrived he saw pedigrees marked on them and he went for them like a hungry nigger for a hen roost. He filled them out with the names and numbers of the dams and the granddams, the sires and the grandsires and great grandsires, and sent them back to Mr. Mills. When Mr. Mills received them he opened the package enough to see that they were Short-Horn documents and he sealed it up and sent it to Mr. Pickerel, who was the editor of the Short-Horn Herd-Book. When Mr. Pickerel received them he was going to send them right away to the printer, but he thought he would look them over first and see if they were all right. He opened them up and commenced to read "sired by Brilliant, grandsire Favors, great grandsire Coco, great great grandsire Jean-le-Blanc." It bothered Mr. Pickerel; he didn't remember of ever seeing those names in the Short-Horn Herd-Book. Mr. Pickerel finally discovered the mistake. It was a good thing he did, for if he had sent those documents to the printer the State Board of Agriculture would have had to make another class to show Short-Horn Percherons in next fall.

Z. W.—Do you suppose they would have done it?

Mr. F.—Oh, yes; they would have done it on account of the money there would have been represented in it.

Z. W.—Did you ever hear of a case where any one got the wrong pedigree with his horse in France?

Mr. F.—Yes, sir; I heard of a case where a man bought a black horse and the pedigree called for a gray horse. He did not discover his mistake until he got home.

Z. W.—What did he do about it?

Mr. F.—He sent the pedigree back to the man he got the horse

of and it was returned with the word gray erased and the word black inserted.

Z. W.—Could not that have been done here as well as to send it all the way back to France?

Mr. F.—Yes, sir; if the fellow had known enough to scratch and write he could have done it as well as anybody.

Z. W.—Do they not sometimes get those pedigrees mixed up so that it is a difficult matter to tell which pedigree belongs to which horse?

Mr. F.—That frequently happens. I heard of one case where a man bought several animals of an importer. The importer told him he had Percheron pedigrees for them. He brought out forty or fifty pedigrees and threw them down on the table and told the buyer to pick out the pedigree he wanted. He picked out what he fancied most, with the ages and colors to correspond with the animals he had bought.

Z. W.—Well, that importer was a fair man to deal with. There was nothing selfish about him.

Mr. F.—Oh, he was all right! He believed that the man who got first choice of his horses ought to have first choice of his pedigrees. First come, first served; that is right.

Z. W.—Are the Percheron dealers in France as obliging as the Percheron importers in this country?

Mr. F.—I think they are. I know one importer who bought a horse of one of the leading French dealers in Perche and got a Percheron pedigree with him. In a few days after he bought the horse he concluded he would like to have the pedigree changed and another stallion given in the pedigree as the sire of his horse. He asked the dealer if he would oblige him in making the change. He said he would, and did make the change, and that horse will sell for just as much and do as much business in this country now with the last pedigree as he would with the first.

Z. W.—Then one imported Percheron pedigree is about as good as another?

Mr. F.—In your humble servant's opinion one of those pedigrees is just as good as the other, and neither one of them is worth the paper they are written on.

Z. W.—About what proportion of the Pedigreed Percheron horses imported are animals of any notoriety in France?

Mr. F.—About one in five hundred. Four hundred and ninety-nine out of every five hundred are animals with simply a name, nothing more.

Z. W.—Were not the horses that were imported from France before they got to making paper pedigrees, as a general thing, as good horses as they are importing now?

Mr. F.—Yes, sir; as a general thing they were better.

Z. W.—Do you know of any horses that were imported before they got to pedigreering draft horses in France that now have extended Percheron pedigrees?

Mr. F.—Yes, sir; a number of them. I imported a horse in 1879, long before they ever thought about pedigreering draft horses in France. He was sold several times in this country, and finally got into the hands of one of the Percheron dealers. He now has an extended Percheron pedigree.

Z. W.—How did they get a Percheron pedigree for him?

Mr. F.—If I had to be hung for not telling I could not tell you.

Z. W.—Has any one in this country, or in France, ever been able to tell in what respect the horses called Percherons differ from other French draft horses?

Mr. F.—No, sir; that man has to be born yet that can tell in

what respect they differ. I will give any man a thousand dollars if he will come to my stable and select the horses that were bred and raised in Perche, and have Percheron pedigrees, from those bred and raised in other departments in France, and I will board that man one month free of charge while he is making a fool of himself trying the experiment.

Z. W.—What do these Percheron fellows say when they are asked to explain the difference?

Mr. F.—They don't say. They don't try to say anything.

Z. W.—How am I to know that the statements you have made are correct and true?

Mr. F.—The statements I have made, with a very few exceptions, are actual facts, as stated by reliable, truthful men. They have made statements once before reliable witnesses and will make them again if necessary.

Z. W.—Well, what more can you tell me about this business? I want to know it all.

Mr. F.—The probability is that I do not know the sixteenth part of this business, but if you have nothing particular to do next summer and will come down and stay two or three months with me, I think that during that time I can perhaps tell you pretty much all I know about it.

Z. W.—Did the Illinois State Board of Agriculture decide that the Percheron was a distinct breed, and give them a class on that account?

Mr. F.—No, sir; they did not attempt to decide anything in regard to the breeding of French draft horses. They resolved that the present classifications for French draft horses be continued under the names as they at present stand for 1887. Then they resolved that in this action the State Board of Agriculture do not attempt, or pretend, to settle any difference of opinion between the two great rival societies in this country, or the interest they represent, as to race, family breed, or pedigree, and do not thereby intend to convey the impression that horses from one part of France are purer in blood, or superior in quality, to horses from any other part of France.

Z. W.—Well, that sounds like the State Board did not believe that there was any difference in the blood or breeding of the draft horses in France. But still they have retained the classes just as they were before. How will they decide which horses shall show in which class?

Mr. F.—Mr. Whoopemup, you have asked me that question half a dozen times. How do I know, how do they know, how does anybody know how to distinguish between two things that are exactly alike! That is one of the things that cannot be done. You might as well stick your finger in a pail of water, then pull it out and try to find the hole. Oh! consistency thou art a dusky diamond.

Z. W.—Well, I guess you are about right. I know I have overtaxed your patience by asking you so many questions, but I want to learn all there is to know about this Percheron pedigree business; I want to be able to give my neighbors a reason for the faith that is in me. I am truly glad that I met you. I begin to see through the mist now; our talk has done me good.

“As I was about to remark, the constitution makes victuals for extending pedigrees.”

“Oh, no! You mean to say makes provisions.”

“Yes; that's what I sed.”

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